

Hafa Adai!

Kagman health center awarded \$650K federal grant. **PAGE 9**

Fiber optic cable running through Marianas trench OK'd. **PAGE 15**

75¢

Saipan Tribune

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FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 13, 2019

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CANNABIS COMMISSION

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, left, swears in Thomas Songsong, Valentino Taisacan, Nadine Deleon Guerrero, Journie Hofschneider, and Matt Deleon Guerrero into the Cannabis Commission yesterday. An hour after, the commission met for the first time to draw lots for their length of services as well as decide the chairperson of the board. With the first meeting, the 180-day clock starts ticking for the commission to come up with regulations to legalize cannabis use in the CNMI.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Muña resigns from PSS

By **MARC A. VENUS**
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REPORTER

Education Commissioner Glenn Muña has submitted his letter of resignation to the CNMI State Board of Education.



Muña

BOE chair Janice Teno-rio confirmed that Muña will be resigning at the end of his contract in 60 days and that he had cited "personal reasons" for his resignation.

This comes on the heels of the resignation of PSS Finance and Budget director Christopher Ching, whose last day

See MUÑA on Page 4

Still no movement on CW-1 issue

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

There remains no movement

on the CW-1 issue even as the Sept. 30 deadline creeps closer. With only 17 days left before the work permits of the CNMI's foreign workers ex-

pire, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres assured that his office continues to work with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Ser-

See CW-1 on Page 4

CNMI accused of bad faith

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Accusing it of acting in bad faith and of breaching the settlement agreement, the CNMI government came under fire from the lawyer of the NMI Settlement Fund,

who slammed the government for refusing to recognize the Settlement Fund's right to proceed on claims against the government to recover unpaid employer contributions.

Such action of the Commonwealth, including dis-

See CNMI on Page 4



2019 MISS EARTH MARIANAS

Deleon Guerrero champions eco-initiatives

By **IVA MAURIN**
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Beauty with a purpose. That's how the Miss Earth competition was marketed in the CNMI

and, in a short interview with 2019 Miss Earth Leisha De-

leon Guerrero, she appears to embody that purpose-driven ethos, her personal advocacies aligned with helping the island community.

And while there is not one thing that defines who Deleon Guerrero

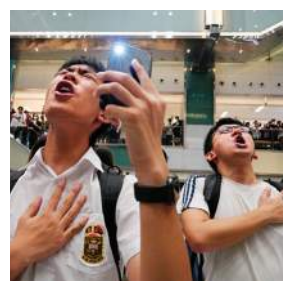
See GUERRERO on Page 4

One of Miss Earth Marianas Leisha Deleon Guerrero's projects is to help bring back trees on the island by participating in tree-planting activities. Inset, Deleon Guerrero advocates for the use of reusable bags when shopping.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



INSIDE



ASIA

Thousands of Hong Kong people belted out protest karaoke in malls in the latest act of resistance.

PAGE 22



WORLD

The cleanup task facing the people who live in the northern Bahamas appear daunting.

PAGE 23



OFF THE WALL

Can a Smart car fit into a kitchen? The answer: Yes it can.

PAGE 24



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Local



CNMI Suicide Prevention advocates pose with Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios at the proclamation of September as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month yesterday at the Da'ok Academy compound in Lower Base. **IVA MAURIN**

Breaking the silence on suicide: The silent killer in the CNMI

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By IVA MAURIN
 iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
 REPORTER

Within the past five years, approximately 43 lives were lost to suicide in the CNMI. Yet there is a persistent societal taboo against talking about this issue.

To break the silence on suicide, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios proclaimed September as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month yesterday at the Da'ok Academy compound in Lower Base.

"I was surprised by the

number of people here today," Palacios said upon seeing the number of people who attended the proclamation despite the heavy rain. "Perhaps it is the tragic experience of knowing members of our family, our community, who have gone and taken their lives."

Palacios thanked all the organizations and members of the community who have stepped up to address "the very quiet issue of suicide."

The 2017 CNMI Youth Risk Behavior Survey noted that

See SUICIDE on Page 4

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Free medical mission at Minachom Atdao this Sunday

In celebration of its 20th anniversary, the Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch) will be holding

a free medical mission this Sunday, from 2pm to 6pm, at Minachom Atdao at Kilili Beach in Susupe.

There will be free services such as blood sugar and blood pressure checks and eye screenings.

Volunteer nurses will administer the blood sugar and blood pressure tests, and eye screening will be done by

ophthalmic technician Erlinda Domingo-Muleta of Marianas Eye Institute.

"We...have been doing [this] annually since 2012, as a way to thank and give back to the community," said church pastor Claire Javillonar. "Everybody is welcome."

There will also be free haircuts, facial cleansing,

and massage.

The group will also be giving away reading glasses to the first 50, as well as bags of toiletries (hygiene kit) to the first 150 participants.

Snacks and refreshments will also be served.

For more information, contact Javillonar at 789-7566. (Iva Maurin)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Medical services await and toiletry kits are readied for distribution at the free medical mission the Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ is having this Sunday at the Minachom Atdao.

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CW-1

From Page 1

vices on the matter. Without intervention, that would mean about 13,000 of the CNMI's foreign workers would have to leave.

Torres noted, though, that in his communication with USCIS to ask for an extension on the Sept. 30, 2019, deadline for the CW-1 renewals, his office has discovered that several companies started their renewal process late.

"We are hopeful, but again cognizant, that there is a deadline of Sept. 30, 2019. We continue to work with USCIS and there is no official report coming out yet, but we are

also finding out that a lot of the companies have turned in their applications late as well, so we are going through some of those numbers now. ... We will continue to work with them," he noted in an interview last Sept. 10.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) told *Saipan Tribune* that he is also working with federal agencies on the issue.

"The issue of our workers exiting [on] Sept. 30 or so, the cost to our economy and the cost to businesses are all well known to federal agencies," he said.

Come Sept. 30, 2019, it is believed that majority of foreign workers in the CNMI, which consist of a large chunk

of the CNMI workforce, is slated to leave the CNMI if they have yet to secure a renewed work permit, called a CW-1 visa.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce recently told *Saipan Tribune* that they are hopeful for a reprieve or deferred action that would allow foreign employees to remain in the CNMI once fiscal year 2020 starts on Oct. 1, 2019.

They also sent a letter to Sablan last Aug. 26, 2019, requesting for immediate action, as well as some recommendations for amending U.S. Public Law 115-218, the law that extended the CW program for 10 years.

CNMI Labor Secretary

Vicky Benavente told *Saipan Tribune* in a previous interview that she concurred with the contents of the letter.

In a letter dated Aug. 17, 2019, an informal group of over 200 CW workers met with the governor to request for a reprieve from the Sept. 30, 2019, deadline. The letter incorporated a request for reprieve and even deferred action for those who are struggling to comply with U.S. Department of Labor requirements in securing a CW petition renewal.

The new requirements are reportedly the cause in the delay in CW-1 renewal applications. However, according to a statement from the delegate's office, it noted that the sheer

number of applicants, which coincided with the processing period for H-1B visas, caused the bottleneck.

His office noted that during his meeting with U.S. DOL and U.S. Department of

Homeland Security officials, they confirmed the average processing time of 41 days for a temporary labor certification—including the 21 days needed for job vacancy announcement postings.

GUERRERO

From Page 1

is, she is certainly someone who wants to be a community leader in the future, who believes that education plays an important role in everyday lives, and, as the CNMI's representative at the upcoming Miss Earth 2019 competition in October, she pairs the trappings of her title with advocacies that build on the natural beauty of the CNMI.

"Miss Earth 2019 is an eco-warrior, she is someone who is part of the action. She leads by example, and shows her community what she can do for our environment, so that others can follow up," Deleon Guerrero said. "She does all she can for her community, and with her platform, advocates for sustaining not only her environment, but the Earth as a whole."

Deleon Guerrero, a 19-year-old Liberal Arts student at the Northern Marianas College, was crowned as the CNMI's very first Miss Earth, only last June.

To help advance environmental awareness on the island, Deleon Guerrero has been participating in tree plantings, trash cleanups, and in promoting the use of reusable bags.

"I really want to work on improving our waste management here and an awareness [of the effects] climate change has on the islands," she said.

Deleon Guerrero believes that the biggest environmen-

tal threat are people, as people could be so unconscious of their doings and responsibilities. She quickly adds, though, that people are also the solution.

"People can be that change, we can be that solution," she said. "Education plays a big role that it takes learning and educating yourself on what you can do as an individual to help better our environment because a simple action, if it's multiplied by hundreds, could make a huge impact."

Deleon Guerrero believes that it's the "little" acts in the community that can ultimately lead to big changes for CNMI.

"Let us educate ourselves on how we can preserve and protect our islands, so that younger generations can see what we are doing and carry it out to the future generations who can continue to pass it down," she said. "Our lands, our seas, our skies, all the beauty that Marianas has to offer, is not only for us, not only for the future generations who would be living on the islands, but for the rest of the world."

Deleon Guerrero will represent the CNMI at the Miss Earth 2019 competition, which will be held on Oct. 26 in the Philippines. She hopes to be able to best represent the Marianas, and its warmth and friendliness, to the rest of the world. She intends to show the world that she cares about the environment, and is bent on protecting and preserving its natural resources, as with the rest of the Mariana Islands.

CNMI

From Page 1

avowing the settlement agreement in the Betty Johnson class action, is a clear breach and is tantamount to bad faith, said Nicole M. Torres-Ripple, counsel of the NMI Settlement Fund.

Torres-Ripple raised these accusations in NMI Settlement Fund's opposition to the CNMI's motion to enforce and cross motion to enforce Johnson's settlement agreement filed Wednesday before the U.S. District

Court for the NMI.

Torres-Ripple asked the District Court to deny the CNMI's motion to enforce the settlement agreement, and grant the Settlement Fund's cross-motion to enforce the settlement deal.

She said the Retirement Fund claims are assets of the Retirement Fund that have been assigned and transferred to the Settlement Fund.

Torres-Ripple said the settlement agreement in Johnson's class action expressly carved out the Retirement Fund claims from release and assigned and transferred

such claims to the Settlement Fund as "assets of the CNMI Fund."

Torres-Ripple said the trustee accepted the assignment and transfer of the Retirement Fund claims on behalf of the Settlement Fund for the purpose of collecting the unpaid employer contributions.

Torres-Ripple said by assigning and transferring the Retirement Fund claims to the Settlement Fund, the settlement agreement in Johnson's class action conferred on the Settlement Fund the right to pursue the Retire-

ment Fund claims, including the right to pursue the claims against the CNMI.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

MUÑA

From Page 1

with PSS was last Wednesday.

Tenorio thanked Muña for his service as commissioner, noting that Muña has been a member of the Public School System for over 20 years. "He has been a big asset to the Public School System and the BOE would to thank him for his service and wish him the best in his future endeavors," Tenorio said.

She also thanked him for giving the BOE 60 days to choose who the next education commissioner would be. Tenorio said they are still in talks about who will be named interim commissioner, but will allow Muña to continue as education commissioner through the duration of the 60 days.

Muña was the system's associate commissioner for administrative services during the time of former education commissioner Cynthia Deleon Guerrero and assumed the top PSS post after Deleon Guerrero was let go in 2017.

After the tenure of Deleon Guerrero in 2017, the BOE first appointed Yvonne Pangelinan, the PSS associate commissioner for student and support services, as the PSS chief, before ultimately appointing Muña as interim commissioner in 2017.

The BOE offered Muña the permanent position of education commissioner only last year. He was slated to be under the PSS on a four-year contract.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

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SUICIDE

From Page 2

13% of high school students had thoughts of suicide, of which 48% LGBTQ students seriously considered attempting suicide. Another 5% of high school students had also attempted suicide at least once in the last year of this survey.

Since opening its doors in the CNMI in March 2018, the Garrett Lee Smith Youth Suicide Prevention Program has provided services to a total of 116 consumers between the ages of 10-24, who have had suicidal ideation or made an attempt to kill oneself.

Youth Suicide Prevention Program project director Ana Ada said that suicide is preventable if people are trained at recognizing its warning signs, like extreme sadness.

"We all are sad at one point,

but when one is extremely sad, that means that person is troubled and needs help," Ada said. "It could be trauma, it could be relationship problems, it could be anything that is so hurtful, and the person does not know how to deal with it. Through counseling and intervention, the person can get out of that black hole."

The program is also working toward eliminating the stigma of suicide, educating the community about the warning signs of suicide, and ultimately reducing the rate of suicides on the islands.

To seek help, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is 1-800-273-8255, and is available 24 hours. To help and for more information on suicide prevention, contact the GLS Youth Suicide Prevention Program at 664-5483/5433 or via email at cnmiglsysp@gmail.com.

Ex-convict is sentenced to 6 months in prison

An ex-convict who beat up his girlfriend in front of their 6-year-old child over a dispute about going to a bar has pleaded guilty and was sentenced to six months in prison.

Felix Muna Kileleman Jr. pleaded guilty last week to assault and battery-domestic violence in a plea deal.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho sentenced Kileleman to the maximum of one-year imprisonment, with the first six months to be served day for day, without the possibility of parole and early release. He noted that Kileleman has three prior convictions for assault and battery and criminal mischief.

The defendant was given credit for 67 days of time served. The remainder of his sentence (six months) is suspended and may be imposed in whole or in part.

After completing his prison term, Kileleman will be placed on supervised probation for one year.

Kileleman is expected to be released on Jan. 2, 2020. He was ordered to pay a \$250 fine, \$25 in court costs, and \$120 in probation fees.

He may convert the fine to community service. He was ordered to perform 100 hours of community service and complete anger management counseling.

Kileleman is not allowed to drink alcohol during his probation. He is prohibited from having any contact with the victim or the child during probation unless there is a court permission.

According to a police report, police responded to an apartment in central Garapan on the night of July 1, 2019, after the victim reported that Kileleman had assaulted her.

The victim told police that she, Kileleman, and their 6-year-old daughter had just arrived home from the Liberation Day carnival that night when Kileleman got mad at her when she refused to go out to a bar.

The girlfriend said Kileleman shoved her, pulled her hair, punched her in the head and face, and choked her. Their daughter who witnessed the beating, screamed at Kileleman to stop.

Assistant public defender Karie Comstock served as counsel for Kileleman. Assistant attorney general Jonathan Robert Glass Jr. represented the government. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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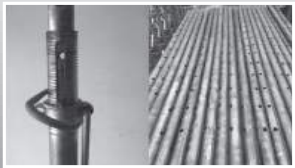
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Drug Court participant gets 5 years in prison

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man who arranged for the delivery of 208 gross grams of methamphetamine while participating in the CNMI Drug Court Program was slapped with a five-year prison term.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo sentenced Ronnie M. San

Nicolas yesterday to 12 years in prison, all suspended except for five years, for trafficking of a controlled substance.

San Nicolas was given credit for 408 days of jail time served. After completing his prison term, he will be placed on supervised probation for seven years.

He was ordered to pay a \$10,000 fine while on proba-

tion and required to perform 200 hours of community service. He will also undergo anti-drug counseling.

For violating the terms and conditions of Drug Court Program in his 2017 case in which he was charged with drug trafficking, but was amended to drug possession, San Nicolas was sentenced to three years in prison and two years of su-

pervised probation.

The imprisonment and probation sentences in both cases shall run concurrently. That means the total prison term is five years and probation is seven years.

Govendo said a review of the facts and circumstances of this case show that San Nicolas warrants imprisonment

Govendo said that in a span

of 14 months, San Nicolas was arrested twice for trafficking a controlled substance.

San Nicolas participated in the CNMI Drug Court from March 8, 2018 until his arrest on Dec. 21, 2018.

While participating in the CNMI Drug Court program, San Nicolas arranged for the delivery of 208 gross grams of methamphetamine and, although he appears to have complied with the rules and tested negative, his conduct outside the Drug Court reflected the actions of an unchanged person, Govendo said.

He said that San Nicolas disappointed him and his fellow Drug Court participants.

San Nicolas also voiced disappointment in himself and a deep regret for the way his actions affected his family, friends, and those involved in the Drug Court. He admitted that he is a drug addict and that he is solely responsible for his actions. He said he now wants to move forward and become a better person for his family and, more importantly, to his 7-month-old daughter.

San Nicolas signed a plea deal with the government to resolve the two cases. He pleaded guilty to trafficking of a controlled substance.

San Nicolas was first arrested on Oct. 13, 2017 for trafficking of a controlled substance when he sold .5 gross grams of "ice" worth \$200. The charge was amended to illegal possession of a controlled substance to allow him entry into the CNMI Drug Court.

San Nicolas was arrested again after CNMI Customs intercepted a tampered coffee-container containing 208 gross grams of "ice" sent to San Nicolas via mail from San Antonio, Texas, in December 2018.

Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds said this was the largest amount of any methamphetamine bust made by the CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force.

And, although San Nicolas was testing negative and complying with Drug Court rules, Hinds said he was also organizing the delivery of a package containing 208 gross grams of methamphetamine.

"This shows that the defendant was in the business of selling drugs," the prosecutor pointed out.

He recommended a sentence of 15 years imprisonment, with three years suspended, 12 years to serve, and a 10-year probation.

Assistant public defender Heather M. Zona, counsel for San Nicolas, recommended eight years in prison, all suspended except for three years.



GREEN GALA TITLE SPONSORS

T-Galleria by DFS Saipan, Flame Tree TV, and Saipan Stevedore Co., Inc. have all committed to supporting MINA's 2019 Green Gala, slated for today, Sept. 13, at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. Proceeds of the gala will support the many environmental programs that MINA engages in with community partners and volunteers throughout the year. Tickets for the Gala are sold out. Doors to the Gala open at 6pm, and shuttle service between American Memorial Park parking lot is being provided, courtesy of Fiesta, from 5pm to 7pm.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

GRAND VRIO RESORT SAIPAN

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House, Senate at odds over exempting NMTI, NMC from mandatory OPA fees

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A bill that exempts both the Northern Marianas Technical Institute and the Northern Marianas College from the mandatory fees that go to the Office of the Public Auditor might head to conference committee after the House of Representatives turned down the Senate changes to the bill.

With a vote of 6-10, the House voted during Wednesday's session to reject Senate changes on Rep. Roman Benavente's (R-Saipan) House Bill 21-40. Among the changes the Senate made on the bill were to remove the sunset provision exempting both educational institutions from paying 1% of their annual operational budgets to the OPA.

The Senate chose to remove the five-year sunset provision of the legislation, effectively exempting NMC and NMTI from paying OPA fees until the law is repealed.

Reps. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan), Ralph Yumul (R-Saipan), Ivan Blanco (R-Saipan), Antonio Borja (R-Tinian), House Speaker Blas Jonathan "B.J." Attao (R-Saipan), and author Be-

navente voted "yes" to the passage of the bill.

Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan), who voted against it, noted that she was appreciative of the legislation's intent to free up some funds for NMTI and NMC, but not at the expense of OPA.

"...NMC and NMTI are included in the single audit for the Commonwealth government. The single audit is covered by the OPA and takes up a substantial portion of their budget," she said. "I worry about the slippery slope this creates. OPA has also expressed concerns about the slippery slope this creates. We already have an issue—problem, actually—that agencies are not remitting funds. This exacerbates the difficulty [OPA is] already having."

Rep. Donald Manglona (Ind-Rota) pointed out that it was OPA that suggested the addition of a sunset clause. "Now I see [that the Senate] version strikes out what we passed, I do not support this bill," he added.

Benavente noted that the initial intention of the legislation was to include a sunset provision. He noted that both NMTI and NMC suffered from Su-

per Typhoon Yutu when it hit Saipan and Tinian in late October 2019, and relieving both agencies of the annual OPA fee obligation would temporarily help them.

Rep. Joel Camacho (R-Saipan) also voted against accepting the Senate changes. "I too express my disappointment," he said. "I agreed to this bill because the intent of this bill was to help NMC during a time of recovery," he said. "This was in no way, shape, or form supposed to be permanent in nature. For this reason, I would have to put forth my objections on this bill."

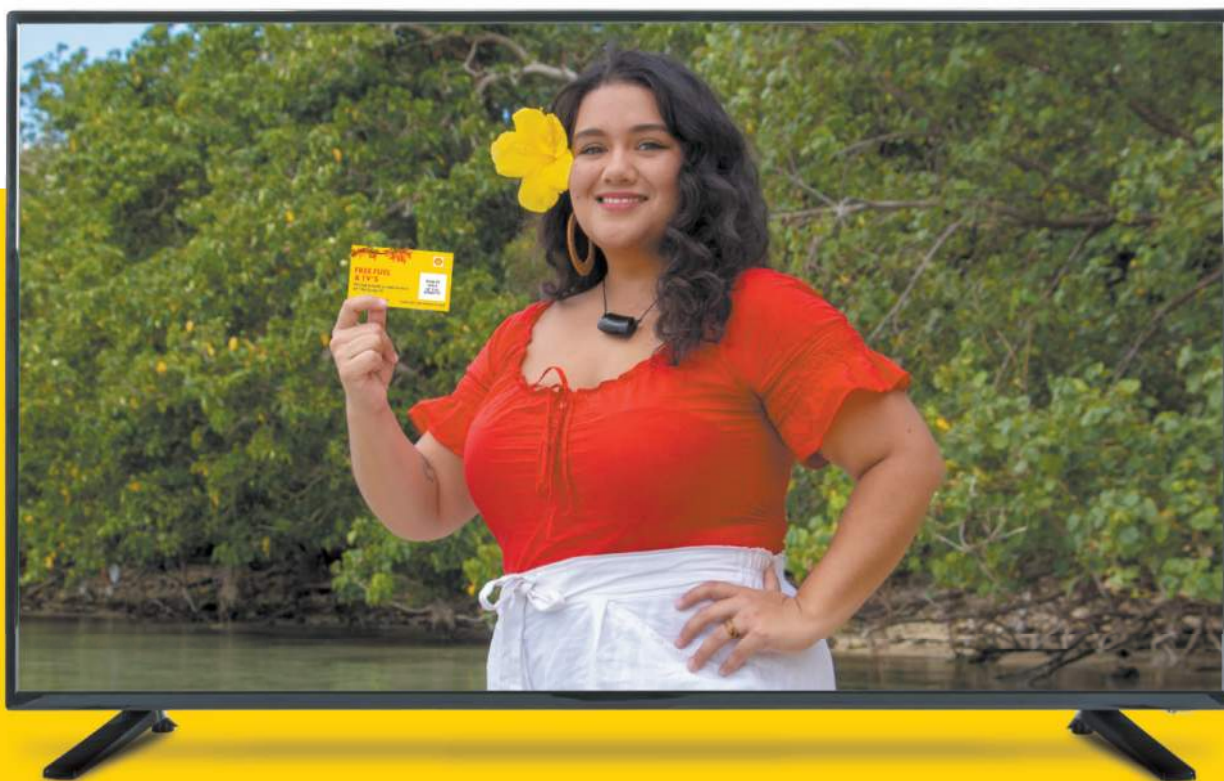
With the House rejecting the Senate changes, the only way to enact legislation similar to the original intent of H.B. 21-40 is either to re-introduce another bill or negotiate with the Senate at the conference committee.

Even then, there is no guarantee that the Senate will select conferees to represent the Senate and discuss the legislation, according to Attao. He added that if the Senate decides not to appoint conferees, then the bill would not gain traction and its enactment will be unlikely.

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Kagman health center awarded \$650K federal grant

The Kagman Community Health Center was awarded yesterday a \$650,000 grant in operational support by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, through the Health Resources and Services Administration.

The grant is part of the more than \$50 million that DHHS awarded to fund 77 health centers across 23 states, Puerto Rico, and the CNMI. This funding provides operational support for new organizations to become HRSA Health Center Program grantees and for existing health centers to establish new service delivery sites.

"HHS aims to help provide all Americans with access to quality healthcare and, ultimately, improve their health. Community health centers play a vital role in that mission, and in the Trump administration's vision for healthcare," said HHS Secretary Alex Azar. "Opening new community health centers and creating additional sites of care is a vital way to help expand access to care and improve the health of the nation's underserved communities, both rural and urban."

Parade of Cultures on Sept. 20

The Parade of Cultures returns to the Marianas on Sept. 20 to kick off the first night of the Marianas Visitors Authority's 5th Annual International Festival of Cultures.

The parade, featuring walking groups showcasing their traditional attire from the Pacific, Asia, and beyond, will begin at 5pm at the Carolinian Affairs Office in Garapan and will proceed north along Beach Road to the festival site at Paseo de Marianas pedestrian mall.

The International Festival of Cultures celebrates the ethnic diversity of the Marianas.

A soft opening will be held on Sept. 20 from 5pm to 10pm with the parade, food sales, cultural demonstrations, and sales of arts and crafts. On Sept. 21 from 5pm to 10pm, the festival will feature live ethnic performances on-stage.

"One of the best qualities of the Marianas community is our rich ethnic diversity, and that's what the International Festival of Cultures aims to highlight," said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo.

Returning to this year's celebration are the communities of Korea, Japan, Tonga/Fiji/Samoa, Federated State of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, China, Cook Islands/Marquesas/Tahiti, the Marianas, and Bangladesh.

Shuttle transportation will be provided from the American Memorial Park parking lot to Paseo de Marianas by the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority. (PR)

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funding expands access to quality health care services for

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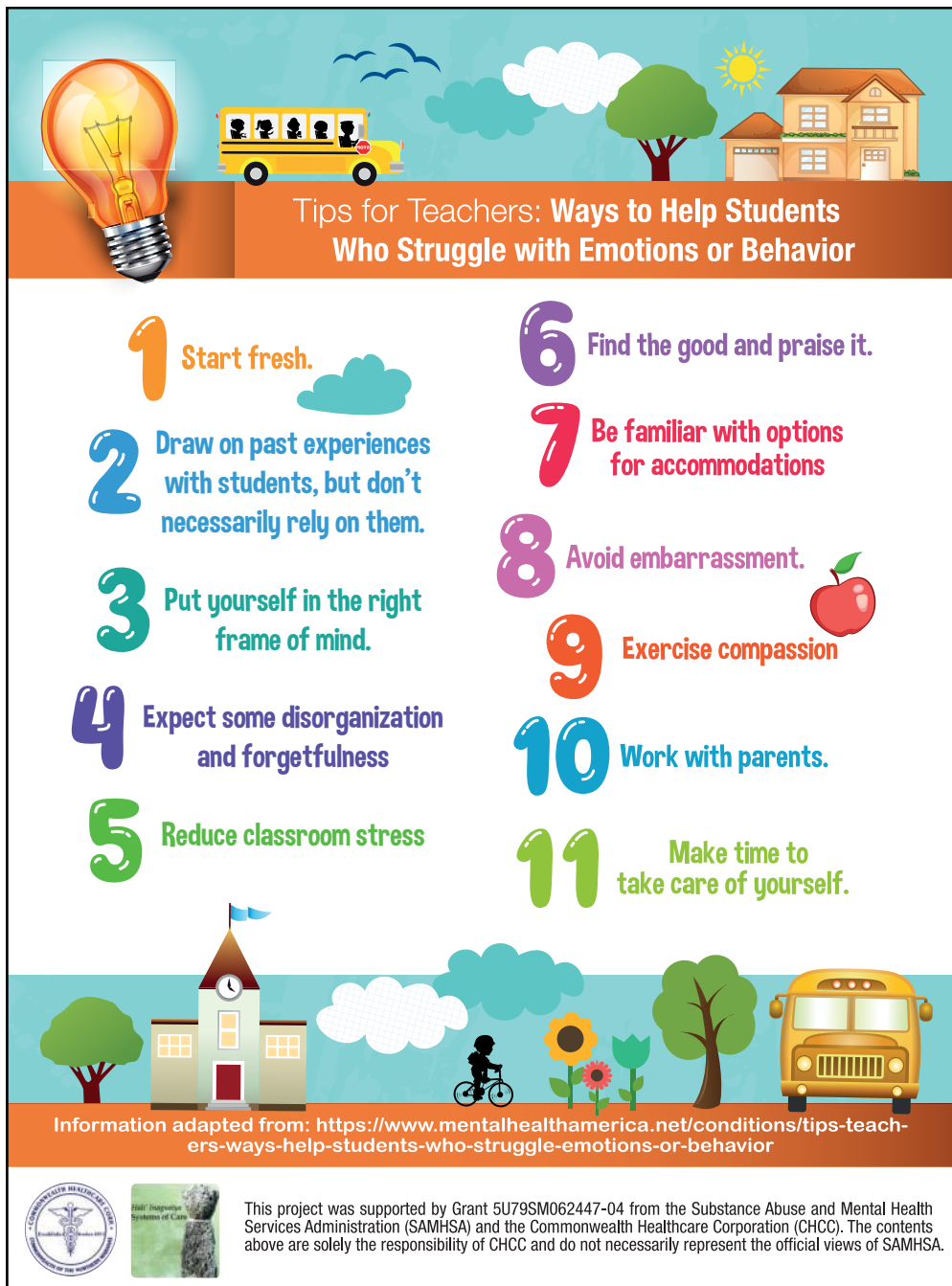
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Tips for Teachers: Ways to Help Students Who Struggle with Emotions or Behavior

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- 2 **Draw on past experiences with students, but don't necessarily rely on them.**
- 3 **Put yourself in the right frame of mind.**
- 4 **Expect some disorganization and forgetfulness**
- 5 **Reduce classroom stress**
- 6 **Find the good and praise it.**
- 7 **Be familiar with options for accommodations**
- 8 **Avoid embarrassment.**
- 9 **Exercise compassion**
- 10 **Work with parents.**
- 11 **Make time to take care of yourself.**

Information adapted from: <https://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/conditions/tips-teachers-ways-help-students-who-struggle-emotions-or-behavior>

This project was supported by Grant 5U79SM062447-04 from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC). The contents above are solely the responsibility of CHCC and do not necessarily represent the official views of SAMHSA.

Another alleged overstayer arrested

U.S. Homeland Security Investigations agents arrested Tuesday an alleged overstaying Chinese tourist who reportedly obtained a driver's license using fraudulent papers.

HSI filed a complaint against Ercang Yang on Wednesday for allegedly presenting law enforcers with a fraudulently obtained identification document.

HSI special agent Erwin T. Fejeran stated in an affidavit in support of the complaint that Federal Protective Services inspector Sean White was performing security patrol of federal government facilities Tuesday when he saw a Toyota Camry park along Chalan Pale Arnold Road adjacent to the Mariana Heights II building. White approached the car and asked the car's driver for his identification. The driver, identified as Yang, presented a CNMI driver's license. White requested HSI to conduct a system check for warrants for Yang and, based on HSI findings, it was learned that Yang has no warrants but appeared to be illegally present in the U.S.

Fejeran said that Yang's identity and lack of immigration status were confirmed at the HSI office. Further examination showed that Yang's CNMI's driver's license was obtained using a fraudulent

immigration document.

Fejeran said DHS records confirmed that Yang entered the CNMI on Dec. 28, 2015, and was granted CNMI-only conditional parole by U.S. Customs and Border Protection that was effective only until Jan. 14, 2016.

Fejeran said Yang overstayed his authorized parole date and is subject to deportation.

According to the DHS systems, the agent said, the receipt number listed on Yang's immigration form I-797A was valid but registered to another individual and not assigned to Yang.

Records checks conducted on Yang's name and date of birth revealed no immigration petitions for him.

Based on these results, Fejeran said, it was determined that the I-797 was fraudulent.

During White's interview with the help of an interpreter, Yang stated that that prior to coming to Saipan, he was told that he could travel to Saipan as a tourist and get a work permit after he arrived.

Yang allegedly contacted an individual via "WeChat" who convinced him to pay 20,000 RMB (Chinese currency) to obtain a job on Saipan.

Using WeChat, while in China, Yang remitted the 20,000 RMB payment.

After Yang arrived on Saipan, he attempted to contact the individual to secure the promised employment but was never able to contact the person.

Yang admitted to traveling to Rota in 2017, where he obtained his first driver's license.

Yang initially told agents that he used a translating application on his phone to fill out the Saipan driver's license application and submitted a copy of his Rota driver's license to obtain the Saipan driver's license in his possession.

Yang stated that a friend assisted him in obtaining the driver's license.

Yang further admitted to lying about filling out the documents and admitted that he never saw the application or the immigration document before.

Yang stated that he did not take a written or driving test to obtain the driver's license.

Yang admitted that he lied about it by putting Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC as his employer in the driver's license application. He said he is not an employee of IPI.

Through White, HSI agents lately arrested several overstaying Chinese tourists who were driving illegal taxis using driver's license obtained through fraudulent documents. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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FY 2020 budget is 9.6% less than FY 2019 amount

At a total of over \$233.22 million, the Legislature-approved version of the government budget for fiscal year 2020 is \$258.13 million less than the fiscal year 2019's budget of \$258.13 million, reflecting a 9.6% drop.

Super Typhoon Yutu, which hit Saipan and Tinian, and Typhoon Mangkhut, which struck Rota, all happened during the last five months of fiscal year 2019.

All government offices will see less generous budgets in fiscal year 2020 as a result.

The Judiciary's fiscal year 2020 budget of \$5.66 million is 17.27% less than fiscal year 2019's \$6.85 million; the Legislature's fiscal year 2020 budget of \$6.75 million is a 4.63% decrease from fiscal year 2019's \$7.08 million budget; and the Executive Branch—including the governor's and lieutenant governor's offices and the departments under it—saw a large 18.26% difference in the fiscal year 2020 budget of \$42.41 million compared to fiscal year 2019's \$51.89 million budget.

Fiscal year 2020 appropriations for Rota are 5.67% lower than the previous year at \$8.96 million compared to fiscal year 2019's \$9.5 million.

Tinian appropriations share a similar fate, with a difference of roughly over 7.71% after \$8.96 million was appropriated in fiscal year 2020 and \$9.71 million in fiscal year 2019.

Saipan appropriations saw a 6.96% difference from fiscal year 2020's appropriation of \$3.54 million and fiscal year 2019's appropriation of \$3.81 million.

The Saipan, Tinian, and Rota appropriations include allocations to their respective mayor's offices, Department of Public Safety offices, Department of Public Works offices, public libraries, and Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services offices, among others.

The Northern Marianas College is appropriated \$5.96 million in fiscal year 2020, a 13.10% increase—one of few increases in the fiscal year 2020 budget bill—from their fiscal year 2019 appropriation of \$5.27 million.

Other increases noted in fiscal year 2020 compared to the previous fiscal year are for the budgets for the Micronesian Legal Services Corp. at \$145,145 compared to its previous allocation of \$100,000;

Medicaid reimbursements of over \$5.3 million compared to the previous \$4.64 million; and the Medicaid Agency's \$204,981 compared to

\$177,724 previously.

The Public School System, which is constitutionally entitled to receive an annual appropriation that is at least 25% of "general funds," was appropriated \$37.71 million in

fiscal year 2020—an 11.99% decrease compared to fiscal year 2019's \$42.86 million. The fiscal year 2020 appropriation, however, meets the CNMI Constitution's mandate setting of at least 25% of "gen-

eral funds."

The Office of the Attorney General is currently reviewing Rep. Ivan A. Blanco's (R-Saipan) House Bill 21-64, or the fiscal year 2020 budget bill. **(Erwin Encinares)**

Call for nominations

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is accepting nominations for the 2018 Governor's Humanities Awards.

This event, held annually in October as a part of CNMI Humanities Month, recognizes outstanding contributions to the humanities by individuals and organizations

in the community.

Nominees should have a notable humanities achievement in the past year, as demonstrated in any of the following four categories:

- Research and Publication in the Humanities;
- Preservation of Traditional Cultural Practices;
- Preservation of CNMI History; and
- Outstanding Humanities

Teacher (in both classroom and non-classroom settings).

A fifth category, Lifetime Achievement, recognizes significant contributions to the humanities over multiple decades. This award may be given posthumously.

Nomination forms and instructions are available at the council's office in the Springs Plaza Building, Gualo Rai, or on the council

website at www.nmhcouncil.org.

Nominations may be made by any member of the public and are due no later than 4pm on Oct. 11, 2019.

Awards will be presented in a special ceremony in October (time, date and venue to be announced).

For more information, contact council staff at 235-4785. **(PR)**

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Tickets now on sale for Club 200

The American Red Cross-Northern Mariana Islands Chapter will be hosting the Club 200 fundraiser on the evening of Oct. 12, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

The theme this year is Latin Nights with hot 'n' spicy salsa music and dance right on the beach. Door prizes will be up grabs. The grand prize is a 2019 Toyota RAV4. For the first time, *pinatas* will give party-goers a chance to capture other prizes. The dance contest is expected to especially *pika*. The costume contest is yet another prize-worthy addition to the program.

Tickets are on sale now for \$100 each, \$150 for VIP reserved seats, and extra-*caliente* swag. Tickets are available at Joeten stores, Red Cross board members, or at the chapter office near the airport. For additional information, call 234-3459. **(PR)**

Kagman schools' PTSA meeting set

The Kagman Unified Schools will be having a Parents Teachers Students Association meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2019, at 5:30pm in the Chacha Ocean View Middle School cafeteria. All parents and guardians are encouraged to attend this meeting. Child care will be provided. Call the any of the three schools at 237-3150 (KagEs), 237-3165 (COVMS), or 664-3781 (KHS) if you have any questions or concerns. **(PR)**

Guam Chamoru commission meetings set

The Kumisión i Fino' CHamoru yan i Fina'na'guen i Historia yan i Lina'la' i Taotao Tâno' (*Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam*) will hold its September and October monthly meetings on Sept. 19, 2019, at the Department of Parks and Recreation conference room in Hagåtña, and on Sept. 26, 2019, at the Multi-Purpose Room at the Guam Museum in Hagåtña. The October meetings will be on Oct. 10 and 24, 2019, at the Department of Parks and Recreation conference room in Hagåtña. A work session is also scheduled for Oct. 17, 2019, at the DPR conference room. All work session and meetings are on Thursdays from 12:30pm to 3pm.

For more information contact Kumisión chair/Gé'helo' Hope Alvarez Cristobal at 483-0097 or secretary/Sikritaria Rosa Salas Palomo at 727-5522. **(PR)**

MHS Class of '81 reunion meeting set

Attention to all members of the Marianas High School Class of 1981. There will be an important class reunion meeting on Sept. 26, 2019, starting at 6pm at the TechNic Gaming Center above Sherwin Williams and across Bank of Hawaii on Middle Road. **(PR)**

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

A thorny bargain for the United States in Afghanistan

For the United States to end its longest war and bring the troops home from Afghanistan, it must negotiate and cooperate with the leaders of the Taliban, the most powerful and stable political power in that nation.

That's a bitter pill to swallow, knowing that the Taliban harbored Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida operation leading up to the attacks of 9/11. And it feels like a retreat, not just from conflict but from honor and decency, too, because the Taliban brutalized Afghanistan with civilian massacres, human trafficking and a systematic revocation of the rights of women while it governed from 1996 until 2001.

In a complicated and vicious world, the United States can justify negotiating with Taliban leaders if the partnership is in the pursuit of a greater good, and if it motivates these despots toward better behavior. But it cannot honor their involvement in the process before they have delivered on a single promise, especially with the blood of just-killed Americans still on their hands and the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks occurring this week.

President Donald Trump has promised to end this war, and his administration has pursued that goal persistently. But by demanding that leaders of the Taliban and the government of Afghanistan come together to ink a pact at Camp David, he may have derailed peace negotiations and their hope of bringing home 14,000 American troops, and denigrated America's image in the process.

Trump said Monday of those negotiations, "As far as I'm concerned they're dead." If that's the case, Trump's egotistical drive to be seen as the prime architect of a big deal and spectacle he could use to buoy his reelection campaign may itself have swamped the effort.

If the United States wants to withdraw from Afghanistan with any hope that it won't lead to an immediate catastrophe, the Taliban has to be a partner, no matter how regrettable that partnership may be. It's no good trying to stop or prevent atrocities by negotiating only with good people, because they're not the ones who commit atrocities. And the intensive, expensive and bloody military effort by the United States to force Afghanistan into becoming a stable and free democratic nation failed.

After 18 years, the war in Afghanistan has killed 2,400 Americans and cost \$2 trillion. The U.S.-backed official government is so corrupt and impotent, it has largely been left out of peace negotiations. And a resurgent Taliban has taken control of more than half the nation's provinces even as U.S. soldiers worked to stop it.

Yet working with the Taliban makes sense at the moment, because its ambition does not stretch beyond its own region and because it has learned that it faces as much danger as the United States does from terrorist groups like the Islamic State. But a pact with the Taliban won't be a cause for celebration—and its leaders will deserve no recognition—until they consistently deliver on their promises to both fight terrorism and treat women with respect.

(c)2019 Newsday



The camel's nose

So the so-called divert airfield (read, full on training facility) on Tinian rears its ugly head in the news again. This time the story centers around the FAA spokesman who said that the "FAA will conduct aeronautical and environmental feasibility assessments—given the project's importance to national defense." The FAA recognizes two things, as you who live on Tinian and Saipan should realize: One, that the DoD, (Navy/Marines) wants to bomb, strafe with jets, run tanks over, fire canons into, run assault vehicles over the reefs and otherwise blow the heck out of the northern part of Tinian; and two, that the divert airfield is the dreaded camel's nose under the tent to get them there. By restricting airspace around the Tinian airport, the TSA that is formed will intersect with and can and will restrict airspace around the Saipan airport as well. What do you think that might mean for an airplane coming in to Saipan from Korea or Japan or China? If they are restricted and can't land on Saipan or Tinian where would they have to "divert" to? Would our hard-won planeload of tourists wind up in Guam? Yes, they would.

The editor won't let me use red typeface so I want you to look at the above quote from the story in the Saipan Tribune earlier this week. Look at the line "given the project's importance to national defense." Read that line as saying "Sorry, it's a done deal. DoD has dibs on the place and protest as you will, we at FAA will cave in to them and your island's residents and your tourism industry will just have to do the same."

This is not a joke, this is a deadly serious threat to the tourism industry of Tinian, and will severely impact tourism (not to mention your peace and quiet) on Saipan as well if the divert field camel's nose ploy works and the DoD/Navy/Marines get their way and take over Tinian with the full CNMI joint military training plan they have lusted after for some time now you can kiss the last vestige of the CNMI economy a fond farewell. Unrestricted live fire training exercises held any time of the day or night are just not compatible with a tourism-based economy. Why do you think Guam refuses to allow live fire training there and wants to see all the GI wages and military base money stay in Guam and all the training and the noise and the pollutants stay up here with their cousins in the CNMI?

Dust off that old Army uniform. Your résumé is going to need not to be buffed up, but spit-shined to get work in that new economy. Ask your parents or grandparents what it was like the last time the economy was a military one circa 1950s/1960s. As for me, I prefer camel toes to the camel's nose.

Call 9/11

Well, it's that time of year again, when we are invited to confuse patriotism with despotism. 9/11 and the events of that fated day when 19 amateurs with box knives defeated the combined efforts of the U.S. government to safeguard commercial aviation have led to some of the most draconian laws and regulations this

SOUR GRAPES

By BRUCE BATEMAN

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Bruce A. Bateman resides on Saipan with a wife, a son, and an unknown number of boonie dogs. He has owned and operated a number of unusual businesses and most recently worked as the marketing manager for MVA. Bruce likes to read, travel, tinker with bicycles, hike, swim, and play a bit of golf. He is opinionated and writes when the moon is full and the mood strikes.

formerly freedom loving country has ever seen.

The loss of privacy and individual freedom under the inaptly and ironically named "Patriot Act" usurped major individual freedoms and has left Americans ready to hand over their "papers" to government agents anywhere and everywhere a la Germany of the 1930's. Every facet of American life has changed from our once open economy to the face recognition cameras on every street corner. From the friendly TSA agent adding a few hours to your every flight to the invasion of your private business life you have been advised that it is all for your own good. It is for your own safety after all that you give up your freedom for the security bat they pretend to wield.

Yes, it was a despicable act those 19 terrorist scumbags invented to use commercial airliners as guided missiles. Yes, we owe thanks aplenty to the first responders who tried in vain to save those 3,000+ Americans who lost their lives that day while many of their own lives were lost. Yes, we should strike back and strike hard...if we knew who really did it, and where they really were. Instead we invaded Iraq to get rid of non-existent weapons of mass destruction, destabilized that government and, by killing hundreds of thousands of children and adults, we begat a whole new and more virulent generation of terrorists with an all-new reason to hate America. The war on terror has raged for nearly two decades, has spent trillions, has enriched the military industrial complex and has inadvertently spawned millions of new terrorists in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, and around the world and has killed thousands of our own military volunteers, many from here in the CNMI. The terrorists are still out there.

Worse, we allowed ourselves to be shackled by the passage of that "savior," the Patriot Act. Second only to the RICO Act, which first allowed the federal government and now state and local governments, to confiscate private property without due judicial process and without even being charged. Innocent until proven guilty? Hardly. Now just an accusation is all that is

See NOSE on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Of yesteryears

Hear the melody *Yesterday* by the four lads from Liverpool. It brought memories of yesteryears, difficult as it may be. But we navigated it successfully.

The pessimistic mood shifted when my grandson chimed, *Oh Happy Day!* It was a timely song that set the tone for optimism.

At any rate, the infantile task (in the '70s) was met with blind faith and conviction, commitment, and hard work by pioneer leadership. It was the pursuit of an historic event—the establishment of self-rule on the islands—established in 1978.

It was the formative years that brought with it its set of challenges that included establishing a presidential system of government here. As difficult the task may be, admirable the sense of humor the folks employed to get the job done.

With self-government in place, we also have a non-voting delegate in Washington. While the privilege of citizenship isn't complete in view of our geographical location it raises the question: When would this be fully realized to give meaning to the principle of rights as citizens?

I also ponder when would our representation in D.C. be granted full role or need we become a state to secure it?

Moreover, when would we be able to vote in U.S. presidential elections? Isn't citizenship sufficient for this purpose? So ours is a half-cocked arrangement?

Disagreement

There was the problematic issue of the "unified budget" concept, specifically its definition. Whichever was taken would have worked out but it became a stubborn political contest.

The administration wanted its package considered intact while the Legislature wants to employ its constitutional authority to dispose of it as it sees fit. Legitimate.

E.A.S.Y. POEMS:

Exemplary Attributes: Shakespeare and Yeats

The Second Term Coming

"Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold."

— from the *Second Coming*, a poem by W.B. Yeats (1865-1939)

Tweeting constant Trumpian twaddle and twit treaties are broken apart, liberal laws suppressed democratic and independent democracy delayed sheer ignominy is loosed around the world a red tide red hat base shouts insults everywhere innocent children are caged, separated indefinitely House bills blocked from coming up for Senate vote while the worst executive orders are issued.

Surely some replacement must be at hand surely the Second term he loses command a Second Term? hardly are those words out when 'non compos mentis' comes to mind somewhere along the US Mexican border the bodies of a father and daughter lie face down in a rio not so grande flowing downstream, dead in the water like fish in our polluted lakes and rivers attempts continue to slow medical insurance for all and cut millions from education across the country hate crimes increase the crude campaigner's comeuppance will come slithering towards Mar a Lago for a second round.

Second Term Presidential Prophecy

"And future ages groan for this foul act."

— from the play *Richard II*, Act IV, by William Shakespeare

If you reelect him again let me prophecy many American farmers will lose their land

When major policies were set and approved the bulk of the work shifts to refinement. I know these folks on a personal basis and it is most admirable the serious demeanor with which they disposed of fiduciary duty. They delivered on state obligations!

Distribution

The NMI doesn't need a 29-member bicameral legislative system. But this was the only way the two smaller senatorial districts could retain some sense of "power" in the deliberation of fundamental policies.

After basic policies have been approved the role of a bicameral legislative system devolved into a luxurious financial imposition. What other fundamental policies do we need at this point beyond imprudent spending?

Trouble

In fact, the NMI has a shortfall of \$63 million per a report by the secretary of Finance. It can't even meet the 25 percent constitutionally mandated funds for PSS.

So it's a tale of a shortfall that could translate into prolonged deficit spending. If not, bankruptcy over the long haul. Domestic disposition would be put through a test.

Government

If the NMI were a private industry it would have been bankrupt decades ago. It was our aspiration for more government that piled up into what's now a dysfunctional entity.

After four decades we still maintain municipal governments all over the archipelago. We also have the 29-member Legislature, the administration and its Cabinet people, and the Judiciary. The vacuous and persistent agenda is more government!

Meanwhile, policy is supposed to improve the quality of life of the people. But with nearly 15,000 employees here earning

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



poverty income it isn't an issue we could claim with pride, is it? Moreover, it is far removed from fiduciary duty. So why keep your people earning poverty income wages and salaries?

Isn't a desk audit warranted now to determine just how many employees do we need in government? As it is there's a greater chance that most are lost in the purpose of their employment.

But they won't complain, hiding conveniently behind the bulletproof cover of biweekly paychecks they receive in taxes we pay.

Taxpayers should insist on a desk audit of the entire government so we see with clarity how much of the excess baggage could be hauled to the landfill in Marpi. It's money that could pay for up-graded services and higher pay for deserving employees!

Confusion

When Magoo and I are working on a project there's the sense of ease and tons of laughter throughout the day.

When I ask if he's done with a certain assignment he'd reply, "Not yet, already." He means it's done "already." At least I made the effort to understand his lingo. Remember what language entails?

I got so taken by his expression that it became part of my answer when asked about anything. My doctor asked if I've taken my medication. I said "Not yet, already." He handed me another set to take. I had to explain my warped sentence. Dumb!

Culture

There seems to be some anxiousness in the assertion of cultural loss. Is it real or perceptual?

Has Chamoru culture been defined? Could you share your findings? With it, what did we lose over the years? Are the losses real or perceptual? Interesting the latter assertion usually gift-wrapped in heedless talk!

NOSE

From Page 12

needed. If that act cut the guts out of your individual freedoms, the Patriot Act is smashing much of the rest to ribbons.

Next the internet will be blamed, regulated into oblivion by government bureaucrats and will leave the last bastion of freedom of speech, already heavily curtailed on college campuses, in rags. They will likely call that the "Free Speech Act" as they smash that essential freedom to the ground in order to protect us.

9/11 era solutions via the Department of Homeland Security have mostly come up boxcars for the American form of government by the people instead of by a bureaucracy or by a ruler. That experiment is fading as, little by little, the Bill of Rights is diluted and chipped away in the name of "security." Our insistence on individual liberty and individual responsibility is our only shot at reversing the slippage. The veterans that died over the last 243 years to preserve that Bill of Rights and that Constitution should not see it diluted and drained away a little piece at a time...but, if they can see, that is what they see.

We should honor those brave first responder heroes and those on the doomed flights who fought back. We should have a parade and march and remember their sacrifice. We should examine closely what we allow our government to do to protect and safeguard us with every step we take on that parade day...and every day.

Thanks for reading Sour Grapes!

"Those who would give up essential liberty, to purchase a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety."

—Benjamin Franklin

"I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones."

—Albert Einstein

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and has been named a poet laureate of Tinian. He has taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.



future farmers will view this calamity retired farmers will sigh and understand. Democracy shrinks from dalliance with dictators the US Constitution twisted rubbed sore and raw a belligerent base belittles sympathetic spectators more disorganized policies than you ever saw. Politically planned travesties of justice from the AG more children found dead near cages at the border a semi permanent plague descends on democracy assault rifles continue their reign over law and order. You voted for democracy's death among free women and men democracy once dead elects a lying leader as ruler once again.

Shall I Retweet You on a Bummer Day






"And often is his gold complexion dimmed."

—an excerpt from *Sonnet 18* by William Shakespeare

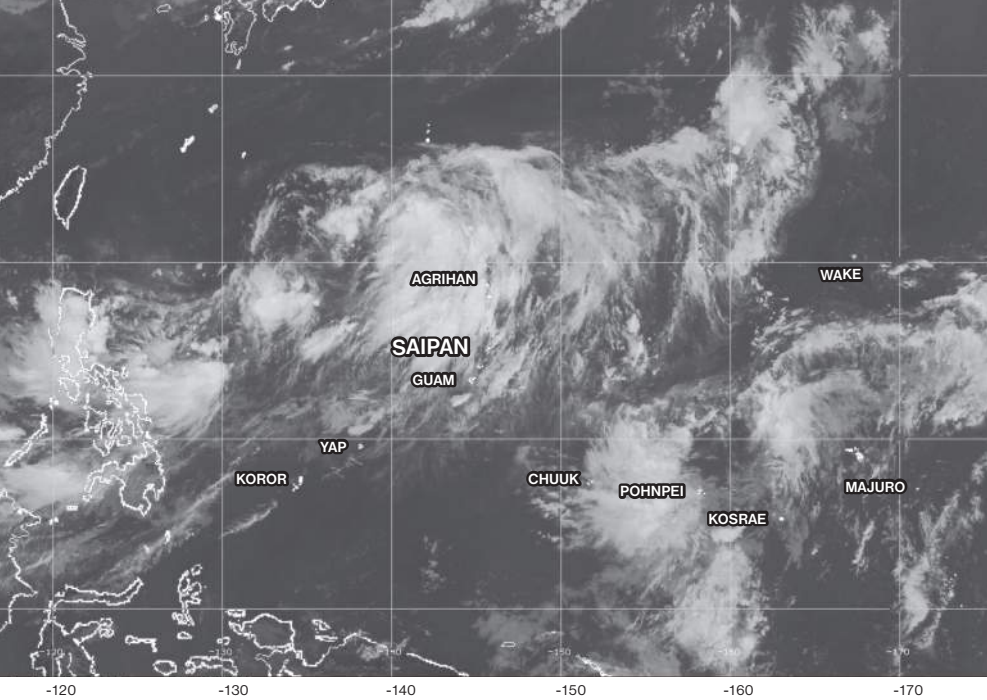
Shall I retweet you on a bigly bummer day when I have angry tantrums and am out of sorts when my hairdresser has run out of hair spray and my golf courses send me loss reports Special Counsel Mueller found obstruction law breaking in four pages Barr made the report substantially dimmed it seems like Greenland might be there for the taking lets stop forest fires by having 'the floor well trimmed' And my eternal blingdom kingdom will not fade nor will I ever lose possession of my tax returns nor of 'fake news' lying media polls am I afraid and I'm not concerned if blue California burns So long as Moscow Mitch gets aluminum rubles for free so long live my pal Putin who gives loans and more to me.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
									
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. West winds 15 to 20 mph.		Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	
86°	78°	84°	77°	84°	77°	84°	77°	84°	77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:40 AM, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Scattered showers are seen across Rota, Tinian and Saipan, with isolated showers over Guam. Numerous showers are seen just north and just southeast of the coastal waters. Mostly cloudy skies with moderate to fresh winds prevail across the Marianas this morning.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°	
Palau	Windy	85° / 79°	
Yap	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	82° / 78°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	87° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	87° / 77°	
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	87° / 81°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	57° / 48°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	82° / 59°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	91° / 81°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	90° / 78°	
London	Showers	70° / 48°	
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	89° / 68°	
Manila	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°	
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	64° / 54°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	70° / 64°	
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	90° / 72°	
Paris	Cloudy	77° / 55°	
Busan	Mostly Sunny	82° / 73°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	84° / 64°	
Salem	Sunny	95° / 70°	
San Francisco	Sunny	75° / 56°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	79° / 68°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	82° / 68°	
Washington, DC	Showers	76° / 69°	



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
1:28 AM	LOW TIDE	0.92	
6:44 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.79	
1:31 PM	LOW TIDE	0.19	
7:59 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.81	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:20 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:19 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:19 PM
Monday	6:05 AM	6:18 PM
Tuesday	6:05 AM	6:17 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	5:07 AM	5:57 PM
Saturday	-	5:54 AM	6:34 PM
Sunday	-	6:41 AM	7:11 PM
Monday	-	7:28 AM	7:47 PM
Tuesday	-	8:14 AM	8:23 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2019

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:57am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:07am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4	UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7	7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily	7C3402	9:30am	3:10pm	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	1, 2, 3, 5, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
7C3403	5:00am	8:30am	4	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	5:00am	8:50am	6	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 6, 7
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	4, 7	7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	3, 5
7C3401	4:10pm	8:10pm	1, 2, 3, 5, 6				
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)				HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1	JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6	3U8645	8:10pm	3:10am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA192/174	9:45pm	8:07am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/174	10:25pm	8:07am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	UA184/174	11:30pm	8:07am+1	2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1	UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7	UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	UA116/174	10:45pm	8:07am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily				
GUAM TO ROTA							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily				
SAIPAN TO TINIAN							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily				
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily				

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Fiber optic cable running through Marianas trench OK'd

HAGATNA, Guam—The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has published an environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact for a submarine fiber optic telecommunications cable to pass through the Trench Unit of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument. RTI Solutions, Inc. requested a right-of-way permit from the Service to install the cable

connecting Japan, Guam, and Australia. The cable, proposed to be laid directly on the seabed through the marine monument, would provide telecommunications interconnectivity between Guam and Australia. The Service has issued the right-of-way permit based on the EA and FONSI. The Service released a draft environmental assessment to evaluate the effects of the

Service issuing a right-of-way permit for the proposed cable through the monument. The draft EA was available for public review and comment from June 12 to July 12. The final EA addresses all comments received. The Service evaluated the proposed telecommunications cable through the monument in consultation with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-

ministration and the Department of Defense to ensure resource protection obligations under Presidential Proclamation 8335 and the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act are met. The final EA and associated documents are available on the monument's website: https://www.fws.gov/refuge/marianas_trench_marine_national_monument/

The Marianas Trench Marine National Monument is

approximately 95,216 square miles and consists of submerged lands and some of the waters of the Mariana Archipelago within three designated units. The Trench Unit and the Volcanic Unit are managed as units of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The CNMI maintains all authority for managing the three islands within the Islands Unit.

Presidential Proclamation 8335 established the Marianas Trench Marine National

Monument in January 2009 and assigned management responsibility to the Secretary of the Interior in coordination with the Secretary of Commerce. The Interior Secretary placed the Trench and Volcanic Units within the National Wildlife Refuge System as the Mariana Trench and Mariana Arc of Fire National Wildlife Refuges and further delegated the management responsibility to the Service. **(PR)**

Man in document fraud pleads guilty, gets time-served sentence

An alleged overstaying tourist, who was found in possession of a CNMI driver's license that he obtained through fraudulent papers, pleaded guilty in federal court last Wednesday and was sentenced to time served.

Guangyi He, a Chinese national, pleaded guilty to con-

spiring with others to produce an identification document illegally as part of a plea deal.

U.S. District Court for the CNMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona also placed He on supervised release for one year. He was ordered to pay a \$500 fine and \$100 in special

assessment fee immediately after sentencing.

Assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley appeared as counsel for the U.S. government.

According to the factual basis of the plea deal, He conspired with another person on Jan. 16, 2019, to obtain a

CNMI driver's license by presenting a falsified U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Form I-797 as evidence of lawful status in the CNMI in exchange for \$1,500.

With the other individual's assistance, He obtained the fraudulently obtained CNMI

driver's license on Jan. 18, 2019, and presented that license to a CNMI law enforcement officer on Aug. 26, 2019.

According to HSI agents, last Aug. 26, CNMI Department of Public Safety police officers conducted a traffic stop and encountered He, who was driving a car with three other Chinese nationals

as passenger. He presented to the officers a CNMI driver's license.

DHS records showed that He entered the CNMI on Dec. 17, 2017, and was granted a CNMI-only conditional parole by U.S. Customs and Border Protection that was effective only until Dec. 28, 2017. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands State Rehabilitation Council

P.O. Box 501521 Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 322-6537 • Fax: (670) 322-6536
TTY: (670) 322-6549 • E-Mail: nmidir@ovrgov.net



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the State Rehabilitation Council will hold its FY 2019 Third General Membership Meeting on Wednesday, September 18, 2019 at the Pacific Islands Club – Napu Room from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda of September 18, 2019
- IV. Review and Adoption of FY 2019 SRC Second General Membership Meeting Minutes of September 4, 2019
- V. Reports
 - a. SRC Chairperson
 - b. Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement Committee Chairperson
 - c. Employment and Marketing Committee Chairperson
 - d. Transition and Assistive Technology Committee Chairperson
 - e. OVR Director
- VI. Old Business
 - a. Sub-Committee Goals
- VII. New Business
 - a. Transition to Success Symposium
- VIII. Consumer Forum
- IX. Miscellaneous/Announcements
- X. Next meeting: _____
- XI. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodation such as large print or sign language interpreter, are asked to call Elvira Sema at 322-6537/38 (voice) or 322-6549 (TTY) no later than Monday, September 16, 2019 at 4:30 pm.

/s/ Frances Torres, Chairperson

This advertisement is paid for with Federal funds made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Department of Labor



Contact the CNMI-OSHA On-Site Consultation Program
for your **FREE** consultation services.



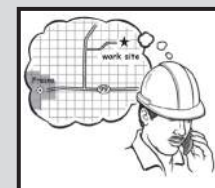
Be prepared for an emergency

Heat kills – get help right away!



If someone in your crew has symptoms:

- 1) Tell the person who has a radio/phone and can call the supervisor – you need medical help.
- 2) Start providing first aid while you wait for the ambulance to arrive.
- 3) Move the person to cool off in the shade.
- 4) Little by little, give him water (as long as he is not vomiting).
- 5) Loosen his clothing.
- 6) Help cool him: fan him, put ice packs in groin and underarms, or soak his clothing with cool water.



When you call for help, you need to:

- Be prepared to describe the symptoms.
- Give specific and clear directions to your work site.

3

For more information, please call CNMI-OSHA On-Site Consultation office at
Tel.: 664-3154/5/6/7 or

Email: Wallace Chong: wchongdollosha@gmail.com
Sidney Camacho: scamachodollosha@gmail.com

This ad is paid for by U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration

Message from the Executive Director



Greetings! The NMI Museum of History and Culture is 93 years old and completed Phase 1 of the museum refresh. The museum has come a long way these past 2 years, and under my leadership much of the internal structure such as cataloging, increased storage capacity and sustainable funding are obstacles that we are trying to address to make the museum the ultimate tourist attraction site on island.

The NMI Museum of History and Culture is an Independent Program from the Governor's Office. Both the Governor and Lt. Governor have been supportive and instrumental in the overall success of the only local government museum in the CNMI. I would like to thank my staff for the dedication and hard work they have performed throughout the years. I want to invite everyone to come down to the museum because it has improved and it's just a great family event especially with the new added Saturday hours (10am to 4pm).

LEGISLATURE TO TRY TO LOOK FOR PERMANENT FUNDING FOR THE MUSEUM

Members of the Legislature were invited to visit the museum to witness first-hand the problems and challenges

we experience or the future problems that will occur as a result of declining funding. We are hopeful that both the House and Senate members can research and provide the museum with the necessary funding we need to effectively run our program. The museum is more of a major tourist attraction site as opposed to a government department. The museum is also recognized by tourists who visit as the Old Japanese Hospital. The Sugar King Park, Old Japanese Jail are one in the same, for the tourist who visit because of the historical significance.



GUAM MUSEUM COMPLETED PHASE 1 OF THE MUSEUM REFRESH

Guam Museum designer Gerry Dizon recently completed Phase 1 of the museum refresh. Now our guest can witness the treasures recovered from the sunken Spanish Galleon Concepcion. The new display cases donated by President of T-Galleria Maryann Aldan Pierce, are lit inside and give the treasure a stunning presentation. We have been receiving many positive comments about the new refresh.



We are eager for Phase 2 and 3 to occur. Mr. Russell who serves as our Curator and Mr. Dizon have been working hard on the layouts and narrative for the new refresh. It's exciting every time we see new paint, new display cases, large format or new artifacts added to a collection.

OLD JAPANESE LABORATORY TO BE USED AS A COFFEE SHOP

The repairs to the old Japanese Laboratory are done and made possible through funding from the Marianas Visitors Authority. For the first time in over 20 years, the museum's Old Japanese Laboratory will no longer be an eye sore but the added touch that accentuates the overall attractiveness of the museum. The plans for the coffee and gift shop are necessary and in the planning phase and we are optimistic that coffee shop sales can help the museum with some of the shortfalls in revenue.

CULTURAL HUTS

The construction of our concrete slabs for our outdoor huts are complete and were made possible from funding from the Marianas Visitors Authority. The construction of our outdoor huts will begin shortly. These huts will support the functions of the museum and we hope to have one major activity by November 2019. The heavy rain and lack of construction manpower have been major reasons for the delay. The activities will be similar to the Thursday night street



market but we will be focusing on local themed products and food. Discussions have been on going with DCCA Arts Council, Indigenous Affairs and Carolinian Affairs Office.

PALM TREES WILL GET NEW FACE LIFT AND NEW SIGNAGE

In our efforts to increase traffic, our Palm trees will get a new face lift with back lit graphics of native animals on land and sea as well as local flowers (flame tree, plumeria) and fruits (mango, papaya) to be installed on our palm trees. We are always trying to find ways to promote the museum, promote the CNMI, increase our visibility, while remaining the must see tourist attraction site.



PUBLIC SCHOOL/NMC AND PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDENTS VISITING MUSEUM

I want to thank all the Public Schools, Northern Marianas College and private school students who have visited the museum. The museum will always be available for schools and students who do research, history reports or just tour the museum. We have made it possible for everyone to visit with our new Saturday hours. The goal is to make the museum accessible for everyone to learn about our proud Chamorro and Carolinian culture. This is the mandate of our program and I am confident that people will like the new design that was recently done.



THANK YOU'S

I would like to thank my hard working staff for the hard work and dedication that they put in every day. I would like to reiterate my thanks and appreciation to the Governor and the Lt. Governor for the confidence and support that they have in me to run the NMI Museum. I want to personally thank the various agencies, the Chairman (Chris Concepcion) and the Board of Governors for the NMI Museum for all the support they provided. I want to thank the people of the CNMI for their patience during the museum refresh and the continued support and kind words you have expressed to me.



THE NMI MUSEUM IS OPEN:

Monday to Friday:	9am to 4pm
Saturday:	10am to 4pm

Public warned of high surf, high risk rip currents

A high surf advisory remains in effect until 6pm Saturday. That means there is a high risk of rip currents through Saturday afternoon.

Also, a small craft advisory remains in effect until 6pm today, Friday. That means winds and seas will remain hazardous to small vessels.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, a southwest monsoon swell will continue to produce hazard-

ous surf through the rest of the week along south- and west-facing reefs.

Hazardous surf between 10 and 13 feet will continue along south and west facing reefs. Surf will begin to slowly subside through the remainder of the week. Surf will remain hazardous through Saturday.

Dangerous rip currents are expected along south- and west-facing reefs through Saturday.

Large surf will produce localized beach erosion and dangerous conditions for swimmers and beach goers.

Seas will begin to subside

Friday and are expected to fall below hazardous levels of 10 feet Friday evening.

Avoid venturing out along south- and west-facing reefs and beaches. Large breaking waves can knock you down and cause serious injuries. Strong rip currents will be life threatening. There is a high risk of rip currents. If you become caught in a rip current, swim parallel to shore and back toward the beach when possible. Do not attempt to swim directly against the current as you will tire quickly. Heed the advice of lifeguards. (PR)

Discrimination suit vs IPI under advisement

The federal court has placed under advisement a race discrimination lawsuit filed against Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC by IPI's former employee.

After a motion hearing Wednesday afternoon in Joshua Gray's lawsuit, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona said a written decision would be forthcoming.

William Fitzgerald argued as counsel for Gray. Kelley Butcher argued in support of IPI's motion to dismiss the case.

Gray, who is an African American, is suing IPI for alleged wrongful termination in violation of public policy (immigration violations), race discrimination, wrongful failure to hire, and infliction of emotional distress.

IPI has denied the allegations.

Butcher argued that Gray merely asserts a broad violation of "immigration laws," yet fails to tie his complaint to an established CNMI or federal law. Without citing a specific statute upon which Gray can base his claim, his claim must be dismissed, Butcher said.

Also, since Gray failed to file a charge within 180 days of the act of discrimination, his claims fail and this claim must be dismissed, Butcher said.

She said the intentional infliction of emotional distress claim must be dismissed as a matter of law and should be barred by the exclusivity provisions of the CNMI Worker's Compensation Act.

In Gray's opposition to the motion to dismiss, Fitzgerald said IPI has failed to make a case that plaintiff's action should be dismissed at this stage of the proceedings.

Fitzgerald said Gray has alleged sufficient facts to make a plausible claim that IPI terminated him because of his warnings and complaints to them about their violations of immigration laws and that they had a policy to discriminate against non-Asian employees, which was directed at him and resulted in his termination and replacement by an Asian woman.

Fitzgerald said the motion to dismiss the intentional infliction of emotional distress claim should be denied on the grounds that it is a question of fact whether racial discrimination suffered by Gray rises to the level of outrageous conduct.

Fitzgerald asserted that it is beyond dispute that intentional infliction of emotional distress is not subject to the CNMI Workers' Compensation law.

According to the complaint, Gray was allegedly informed in March and April 2018 that his job responsibilities would be changed to assist with a "floating hotel."


The "floating hotel" was allegedly IPI's project that never materialized. Gray complained to IPI's legal counsel that this assignment was a demotion—a complaint that was allegedly ignored.

In January 2019, a senior executive of IPI allegedly told Gray that he was instructed to fire him, but he (senior executive) refused to do so.


The owner of IPI allegedly then informed this senior executive that he wanted Gray fired and that a Chinese woman, Lucy Guo, a non-U.S. citizen, would handle the hotel operations.

Fitzgerald said IPI terminated Gray's employment on Jan. 24, 2019. The termination, Fitzgerald said, was clearly in retaliation.

In late 2017, Gray allegedly complained to IPI that the company was violating immigration law and CNMI public policy by failing to hire qualified U.S. and local applicants. (Ferdie de la Torre)



REGULAR BOARD MEETING NOTICE




Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority hereby gives notice that a **Regular Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on **Monday, September 16, 2019, at 9:00 a.m.** in the MVA Conference Room, Saipan, MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

- 1) Preliminary Matters
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Adoption of Minutes
 - a. Regular Board Meeting – August 20, 2019
- 2) Public Comments
- 3) Committee Reports
 1. Finance Committee –
 - a. Fund Status Report – August 2019
- 4) New Business
 1. Request for Proposal for Architectural and Engineering Services – MVA-RFP-19-2016
- 5) Old Business
 1. Off-Shore Marketing Budget for FY2020
 2. MOU with the Tinian Mayor's Office for the Observation Deck Project – No Cost Extension
 3. MOU with the Rota Mayor's Office for the Mt. Sabana 360 Lookout Project – No Cost Extension
- 6) Executive Session
- 7) Miscellaneous/Announcements
- 8) Adjournment

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA), Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, hereby gives notice that CPA is applying for a USDA Loan for funding of the proposed Rehabilitation of Runway 7/25 at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. The purpose of the hearing is to receive comments on the proposed airport improvement and accept any written comments.

A public hearing will be held on **Tuesday, September 24, 2019** from **6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** at the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom located at the Saipan Airport Fire Station.


Persons wishing to provide comments but who are unable to attend the public hearing may drop their comments to the CPA Administration Office, attention to CPA's Executive Director, Mr. Christopher S. Tenorio, second floor arrival building, mail them to P.O. Box 501055, Saipan MP 96950, fax to (670) 234-5962 or email them to cpa.admin@pticom.com by no later than **September 30, 2019.**

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: September 12, 2019


5 WAYS TO HELP SEA TURTLES

1. Keep our beaches clean




Sea turtles can easily choke or get entangled in marine debris. Please dispose of your trash properly!

4. Volunteer




Volunteer with local agencies like DLNR, MINA, & BECQ during beach clean ups and other environmental opportunities!

2. Don't drive on the beach




Sea turtles lay their eggs in the sand. Driving on the beach can crush eggs or compact sand, ultimately killing hatchlings or making it impossible for them to emerge.

3. Switch to reusable products



Plastic items can take over 600 years to decompose. Let's help create a healthier environment by using products such as reusable bags and bottles, metal straws, and other eco-friendly items!

5. Protect our Sea Turtles



Please call the Sea Turtle Stranding Hotline @ 670-287-8537 if you see injured, dead, or trapped turtles, illegal or suspicious activities, and information concerning a poached turtle



Faith, Hope and
KARIDAT
Catholic Charities – Diocese of Chalan Kanoa

Disaster Case Manager – Temporary

The Disaster Case Manager will provide disaster case management services to individuals and families impacted by Super Typhoon Yutu on the islands of Saipan and Tinian, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Disaster Case Manager is responsible for providing a wide variety of disaster recovery client services, including assessments, supportive services, information and referral, financial assistance, advocacy, and the development of long-term disaster recovery plans.

Qualification

- Bachelor's degree in the human service field of 4 years commensurate work experience in disaster services.
- Experience working disaster recovery or related case management.
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively with a wide diversity of people from different ethnic backgrounds.
- Excellent interpersonal skills.
- Proven computer skills including Word, Excel and other appropriate applications.
- Must have a valid CNMI Driver's License.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED: Complete application form, copy of diploma, resume, current police clearance within 6 months and a copy of valid driver's license.

For more information, job description and application can be obtained from Karidat Main Office at Old Sister Remedios Bldg.

NO PHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE.
CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2019 AT 4:00PM

Business

Govt plans to ban flavors used in e-cigarettes

WASHINGTON (AP)—The federal government will act to ban thousands of flavors used in e-cigarettes, President Donald Trump said Wednesday, responding to a recent surge in underage vaping that has alarmed parents, politicians and health authorities nationwide.

The surprise White House announcement could remake the multibillion-dollar vaping industry, which has been driven by sales of flavored nicotine formulas such as “grape slushie” and “strawberry cotton candy.”

The Food and Drug Administration will develop guidelines to remove from the market all e-cigarette flavors except tobacco, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar told reporters during an Oval Office appearance with the president, first lady Melania Trump and the acting FDA commissioner, Ned Sharpless.

Trump, whose son Barron is 13 years old, said vaping has become such a problem that he wants parents to be aware of what’s happening. “We can’t allow people to get sick and we can’t have our youth

be so affected,” he said. Melania Trump recently tweeted her concerns over the combination of children and vaping, and at the meeting, the president said, “I mean, she’s got a son—together—that is a beautiful, young man, and she feels very, very strongly about it.”

Trump’s first public comments on vaping come as health authorities investigate hundreds of breathing illnesses reported in people who have used e-cigarettes and other vaping devices.

No single device, ingredient or additive has been identified, though many cases involve marijuana vaping.

The restrictions announced by Trump officials would only apply to nicotine vaping products, which are regulated by the FDA.

The FDA has had the authority to ban vaping flavors since 2016, but has previously resisted calls to take that step. Agency officials instead said they were studying if flavors could help smokers quit traditional cigarettes.

But parents, teachers and health advocates have increasingly called for a crackdown on flavors, arguing that they are overwhelmingly to blame for the explosion in underage vaping by U.S. teens, particularly with small, discrete devices such as Juul’s.

“It has taken far too long to stop Juul and other e-cigarettes companies from targeting our

nation’s kids with sweet-flavored, nicotine-loaded products,” said Matthew Myers, of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, in a statement.

Federal law prohibits e-cigarette and all other tobacco sales to those under 18.

But federal health officials said Wednesday that preliminary data shows more than 1 in 4 high school students reported vaping this year, com-

pared with 1 in 5 students in 2018. Federal health officials have called the trend an “epidemic,” and they fear teenagers who vape will eventually start smoking.

More than 80 percent of underage teens who use e-cigarettes say they picked their product because it “comes in flavors that I like,” according to government surveys.

A ban on flavors would be

a huge blow to companies like San Francisco-based Juul, which sells mint, fruit and dessert flavored-nicotine pods.

Juul and others have argued that their products are intended to help adult smokers wean themselves off traditional paper-and-tobacco cigarettes.

But a Juul spokesman said in a statement that the company “strongly” agreed with the need for “aggressive action”

on flavors. “We will fully comply with the final FDA policy when effective,” he stated.

The Vapor Technology Association said in a statement the flavor ban would force smokers “to choose between smoking again ... or finding what they want and need on the black market.” The group represents vaping manufacturers, retailers and distributors.

Trump agrees to 2-week delay in China tariff increase

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump says the United States has agreed to a two-week delay in a planned increase in tariffs on some Chinese imports.


Trump said on Twitter on Wednesday that the delay is “a gesture of good will.”

He says Chinese Vice Premier Liu He requested the delay “due to the fact that the People’s Republic of China will be celebrating their 70th Anniversary ... on October 1st.”

Trump has imposed or announced penalties on about \$550 billion of Chinese products, or almost everything the United States buys from China. Tariffs of 25% that were imposed previously on \$250 billion worth of Chinese goods were due to rise to 30% on Oct. 1.

Instead, Trump says, that will be delayed until Oct. 15.

The two sides have agreed to resume negotiations in Washington early next month. By delaying his tariff increase by two weeks, Trump has allowed for at least the theoretical possibility that the negotiators could make enough progress to avert his tariff increase indefinitely.




DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan

TEL. NO. 664-8300 • FAX NO. 664-8315

www.dcrm.gov.mp



NOTICE OF APPLICATION
As of September 13, 2019

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Marianas Visitors Authority	09/05/2019 RSm-2019-0905	Konquer Sports Event	Rota	Shoreline	Under Review*
2. Auto Marine, Inc.	09/03/2019 SPI-2019-X-059	Drydock	South Seaplane Ramp, Lower Base	Ports and Industrial	Approved* 09/05/2019
3. MP Holdings LLC dba Saipan Vegas	08/19/2019 SMS-2017-X-098 Amendment 2019-1	Parking Lot Extension	Chalan Laulau, Saipan	Major Siting-Existing	Approved 09/11/2019
4. Changjiang Corporation dba Eagle Travel Agency	08/22/2109 SLR-2018-X-144-R2	Snorkeling	Mañagaha & Grotto	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 09/04/2019
5. N Corporation	08/23/2019 SLR-2019-X-055	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation/Instruction	All Designated Dive Sites on Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 09/04/2019
6. Triple J Saipan Inc.	08/27/2019 SS-2019-X-057	Land clearing	Chalan Kanoa, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved 09/11/2019
7. Geming Xu dba Li Xu, LLC	09/05/2019 SMS-2019-X-060	Hotel	Garapan, Saipan	Major Siting-New	Under Review*
8. IMarianas, LLC	09/05/2019 SLR-2019-X-061	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation/Instruction	Grotto, Lau Lau Bay, & Obyan Beach	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*
9. Yu Lu	09/05/2019 SPI-2019-X-062	Soil Investigation	Puerto Rico	Ports and Industrial	Under Review*
10. Department of Public Works	09/11/2019 SW-2019-X-063	Kannat Tabla Road Flood Control & Drainage Improvement	Kannat Tabla	Wetlands	Under Review*
11. Tinian Hairui Real Estate Co., LLC dba Xingsha Hotel	03/15/2019 TMS-2019-X-020	Xinghsa Hotel	San Jose, Tinian	Major Siting-New	Tabled, Pending New Design Plans 09/3/2019

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

IN THE SUPERIOR OF THE COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ANTONIO NAVIA SACAYAN
Petitioner,
vs.
Tessie Macasling Garay
Respondent,

FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION
NO. 19-0318

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PMB 445 BOX 10001 CHINATOWN SAIPAN, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 24th day of July, 2019.
/s/ Clerk of Court

Nation

450 miles of border wall by next year? In Arizona, it starts

YUMA, Ariz. (AP)—On a dirt road past rows of date trees, just feet from a dry section of Colorado River, a small construction crew is putting up a towering border wall that the government hopes will reduce—for good—the flow of immigrants who cross the U.S.-Mexico border illegally.

Cicadas buzz and heavy equipment rumbles and beeps before it lowers 30-foot-tall (9-kilometer-tall) sections of fence into the dirt. “Ahí está!”—“There it is!”—a Spanish-speaking member of the crew says as the men straighten the sections into the ground. Nearby, workers pull dates from palm trees, not far from the cotton fields that cars pass on the drive to the border.

South of Yuma, Arizona, the tall brown bollards rising against a cloudless desert sky will replace much shorter barriers that are meant to keep out cars, but not people.

This 5-mile (8-kilometer) section of fencing is where President Donald Trump’s most salient campaign promise—to build a wall along the

entire southern border—is taking shape.

The president and his administration said this week that they plan on building between 450 and 500 miles (724 and 806 kilometers) of fencing along the nearly 2,000-mile (3,218-kilometer) border by the end of 2020, an ambitious undertaking funded by billions of defense dollars that had been earmarked for things like military base schools, target ranges and maintenance facilities.

Two other Pentagon-funded construction projects in New Mexico and Arizona are underway, but some are skeptical that so many miles of wall can be built in such a short amount of time. The government is up against last-minute construction hiccups, funding issues and legal challenges from environmentalists and property owners whose land sits on the border.

The Trump administration says the wall—along with more surveillance technology, agents and lighting—is key to keeping out people who cross illegally.

Critics say a wall is use-

less when most of those apprehended turn themselves in to Border Patrol agents in the hope they can be eventually released while their cases play out in immigration court.

In Yuma, the defense-funded section of tall fencing is replacing shorter barriers that U.S. officials say are less efficient.

It comes amid a steep increase since last year in the number of migrant families who cross the border illegally in the Yuma area, often turning themselves in to Border Patrol agents. Many are fleeing extreme poverty and violence, and some are seeking asylum.

So far this year, Border Patrol agents in the Yuma sector have apprehended over 51,000 family units. That’s compared with just over 14,500 the year before—about a 250% increase.

The Yuma sector is the third busiest along the southern border, with officials building a temporary, 500-person tent facility in the parking lot of the Border Patrol’s Yuma headquarters in June.

It spent just under \$15 million for the setup and services

for four months, including meals, laundry and security, but officials are evaluating whether to keep it running past next month as the number of arrivals in Yuma and across the southern border have fallen sharply in recent months.

The drop is largely due to the Mexican government’s efforts to stop migrants from heading north after Trump threatened tariffs earlier this year to force Mexico to act.

The number of people apprehended along the southern border fell by 61 percent between this year’s high point in May and the end of August. In Yuma, it fell by 86 percent, according to government figures. Most people apprehended are either traveling as families or are unaccompanied children.

“Historically this has been a huge crossing point for both vehicles as well as family units and unaccompanied alien children during the crisis that we’ve seen in the past couple of months,” Border Patrol spokesman Jose Garibay said. “They’ve just been pouring over the border due to the fact that we’ve only

ever had vehicle bollards and barriers that by design only stop vehicles.”

Victor Manjarrez Jr., a former Border Patrol chief who’s now a professor at the University of Texas, El Paso, was an agent when the government put up the first stretch of barriers along the southern border—in San Diego.

He’s seen barriers evolve from easily collapsible landing mats installed by agents and the National Guard to the sophisticated, multibillion-dollar projects now being done by private contractors.

Manjarrez says tall border fencing is crucial in some areas and less helpful in others, like remote stretches of desert where shorter barriers and more technology like ground sensors would suffice.

“One form doesn’t fit in all areas, and so the fence itself is not the one solution. It’s a combination of many things,” Manjarrez said.

The ease of construction varies by place and depends on things like water, Manjarrez said, adding that just because a plot of land is flat “doesn’t mean it’s not complex.”

He said building 450 to 500 miles (724 and 806 kilometers) of fence by the end of next year would be tough if that figure doesn’t include sections of the wall that have been built recently.

“As it stands now, contractors are building pretty fast,” Manjarrez said. The real question is whether the government needs to build that much fencing, he said.

The Trump administration may face those issues along with lawsuits from landowners who aren’t giving up their property so easily and environmentalists who say the barriers stop animals from migrating and can cut off water resources.

The Tohono O’odham tribe in Arizona also has expressed opposition to more border fencing on its land, which stretches for nearly 75 miles (120 kilometers) along the border with Mexico.

Near Yuma, the Cocopah Indian Tribe’s reservation is near the latest fencing project, and leaders are concerned it will block the view to its sacred sites, spokesman Jonathan Athens said.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-19-024

W-6 Sewer Lift Station Elimination

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the W-6 Sewer Lift Station Elimination in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists of the installation of gravity sewer main, new service laterals, connection to existing laterals, the abandonment of existing sewer manholes, and the elimination of the old W-5 wet well and the W-6 sewer lift station.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and CUC. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the project to be completed in **270 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **September 12, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 7, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “**CUC-IFB-19-024, W-6 Sewer Lift Station Elimination**” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 27, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of **fifteen percent (15%)** of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of **one hundred percent (100%)** of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of **one hundred percent (100%)** of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.*

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission’s (CPUC) approval. If CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 16, 2019** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Larry Manacop, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email at larry.manacop@cucgov.org, Nicolette Villagomez, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email at nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org, and Ms. Christie Sablan, Purchasing Technician, Senior, via email address at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-19-025

ROTA WATER CAVE ENCLOSURE

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Rota Water Cave Enclosure in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of the installation of a new concrete CMU block wall enclosure, screened aluminum doors, drain pipes, fencing upgrades; and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Public Law 20-61.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **180 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **August 30, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Rota Directors Office, Sinapalo, Rota.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “**CUC-IFB-19-025, Rota Water Cave Enclosure**” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on September 19, 2019**. Bid Submissions will be publicly opened and read aloud at 10:15 AM (ChST) the same day. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on September 3, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Edgar Tuazon, Water Division, Jr. Engineer via email address edgar.tuazon@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM B. GILMORE
Acting, Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



ACROSS THE NATION

5 people stabbed in Tallahassee, suspect in custody

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP)—A man ordered to leave a construction-supply business after quarreling with co-workers returned minutes later and stabbed five employees Wednesday in Florida's capital, seriously wounding one of them, authorities said. Police in Tallahassee were still trying to determine what set off the suspect and prompted him to pull out a pocketknife and stab co-workers before fleeing the workplace on foot. They identified the suspect as Antwann Brown, 41. "It appeared that he actually sought out certain victims," interim Police Chief Steven Outlaw said during a news conference just yards from the business. One victim was in serious condition at a hospital, two were in fair condition and another two were in good condition, said Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare spokeswoman Danielle Buchanan. Brown was apprehended without a struggle not far from Dyke Industries, which supplies doors and windows to residential and commercial customers. Police said he had worked there for just over three months.

Customs: Bahamian girl in custody unaccompanied by family

MIAMI (AP)—A Bahamian girl who evacuated to Florida after Hurricane Dorian was transferred to the government's custody because she arrived in the U.S. with an adult who was not a family member, immigration officials said Wednesday. U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials "made multiple attempts" to contact the family of 12-year-old Katyora Paul after she arrived in West Palm Beach on Sunday, the agency said in a statement. The department issued another statement later Wednesday saying it had been in contact with Katyora's mother

and was working with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which had custody of the girl, to verify "legitimate caretakers."

Divers recover body of last missing victim of boat fire

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Divers on Wednesday recovered the body of the last missing victim of a boat fire off the California coast that killed 34 people. The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office announced the end of the search on Twitter, saying it was "relieved to report" the final victim had been found. Authorities were still doing DNA tests to confirm the identities of seven of the victims. Earlier in the day, the Coast Guard announced it has issued new safety recommendations in the wake of the tragedy near Santa Cruz Island, such as limiting the unsupervised charging of lithium-ion batteries and the use of power strips and extension cords.

San Francisco's iconic cable cars to shut down for repairs

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—San Francisco's iconic cable cars will stop running for 10 days starting Friday while they undergo the final repairs in a three-year restoration project of the gearboxes that propel the world-famous system up the city's notoriously steep hills. Shuttle buses will run along the three cable car routes where historic cars typically travel at a steady 9.5 miles (15 kilometers) per hour, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency said Wednesday. The agency says it needs to get the manually operated cable cars off the streets to rehabilitate the gearboxes that power the system that started in the 1890s. The gearboxes spin the 30-foot (9-meter) tall wheels that pull the 12 miles (19 kilometers) of steel cables under San Francisco to lift the city's 40 cable cars up steep hills.

**NMPASI**

NORTHERN MARIANAS PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEMS, INC.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI) is soliciting proposals for Single Audit of financial and compliance audit for fiscal year ending September 30, 2019. NMPASI is designated, federally funded protection and advocacy system for persons with disabilities in the CNMI. NMPASI uses a variety of individual and systems advocacy approaches to protect people's rights, including legal and administrative remedies, legislative, policy change and trainings. Proposals for the financial and compliance audit shall be submitted to NMPASI, P.O. Box 503529, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than December 14, 2019. The audit shall be performed in compliance with the following guidelines:

1. Generally Accepted Auditing Standards;
2. OMB Circular A-133; and
3. Compliance with the general Requirements Applicable to Federal Financial Assistance Program.

Award will be based on specific factor such as prior experience, technical competence, ability to meet the deadline and price in this order. The contract for this audit will be awarded no later than December 21, 2019, and a final audit report shall be completed by March 15, 2020. A list of specific audit requirements and Agency's profile are available at NMPASI office, Gualo Rai. Any questions regarding this matter can be addressed to Mr. James Rayphand, Executive Director at (670) 235-7273/4 (voice) or email at jraypahnd@nmpasi.org.


Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
 Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-014, Rev.1
**SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF PRIMARY SCREEN,
GRIT & FOG REMOVAL EQUIPMENT**

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the supply and delivery of Primary Screen, Grit and Fog Removal Equipment for the Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant at CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-work will be emailed to all registered prospective proposers email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Proposal Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

One (1) original and four (4) hard copies, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-19-014, Rev.1, Supply and Delivery of Primary Screen, Grit and Fog Removal Equipment for the Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant, Saipan" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **September 16, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 23, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator at email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, P.E., Senior Engineer for Water/Wastewater at email address westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrative Technician, Senior at email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM GILMORE
 Acting, Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
 Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
 Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-033
**REQUEST FOR FEE PROPOSAL
FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES**

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from professional Archaeologist who meets U.S. Department of Interior qualifications (36CFR61) to create a work plan to prepare information, data, and documentation needed to conduct Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) review with aim of completing Section 106 Review and generating archaeological expectations necessary for the proposed CUC waterline and sewerline projects proposed for FY 19. The selected consultant shall provide necessary assessment within the Area of Potential Effect (APE) of the proposed waterline and sewerline installation satisfactory to the CUC, United States Environmental Protection Agency and State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$50.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-work will be emailed to all registered prospective proposers email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and four (4) hard copies, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-19-033, Request for Fee Proposal for Archaeological Services" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **September 23, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 6, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator at email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, Engineer for Water Division at email address nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrative Technician, Senior at email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM GILMORE
 Acting, Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
 Purchasing Administrator

Asia

Belting out karaoke is Hong Kong's new protest method

HONG KONG (AP)—Thousands of Hong Kong people belted out protest karaoke in shopping malls in the latest act of resistance in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

Activists and ordinary citizens sang “Glory to Hong Kong” at several malls Wednesday night in a respite from recent violence during the months-long protests pushing for democratic reforms.

The song was penned anonymously and has been adopted

as the protesters’ anthem. The lyrics reflect protesters’ vow not to surrender despite a government concession to axe an extradition bill that sparked a summer of unrest.

At the New Town Plaza in Sha Tin district, some 2,000 people spread across several floors chanted slogans before breaking out into song in an emotional scene, with some crying and many lifting their hands in the air. The crowd included families with young

children, students and senior citizens, many of them not wearing masks, as the protesters have.

The busy mall is linked to a subway station where police fired tear gas on Sunday after protesters vandalized the station.

Local media showed singing taking place in at least four other malls, as well as in some spots including outside a subway station. The South China Morning Post said participants responded to online calls to

gather and sing. Police were absent and the gatherings dispersed peacefully.

The song has emerged at almost every protest since last week, including during a World Cup qualifier match on Tuesday with Iran where Hong Kong soccer fans booed at the Chinese national anthem before kick-off.

Protesters have widened their demands to include calls for direct elections for the city’s leaders and police ac-

countability. Many saw the extradition bill, that would have sent some suspected criminals to China for trial, as a glaring example of the city’s eroding autonomy since the former British colony returned to Chi-

nese control in 1997.

More protests are being planned this weekend to coincide with the Mid-Autumn Festival celebrations, including another major rally in central Hong Kong.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Thai court declines to hear case of PM's incomplete oath

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand’s Constitutional Court announced Wednesday it has declined to hear a case accusing the country’s prime minister of violating the constitution by omitting a sentence from the oath of office he and his government took before King Maha Vajiralongkorn. The issue raised questions about the legitimacy of Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha’s government, which took office in July. Prayuth failed to include the phrase “I will also uphold and comply with the constitution of the kingdom in every aspect.” It was unclear if the omission was accidental or intentional. A statement from the court Wednesday said it lacked jurisdiction because the oath was a matter between the executive branch and the king. It also mentioned that the king had issued a royal message, delivered late last month but dated the day of the oath-taking, encouraging the Cabinet members to perform their duties according to the oath they swore.

Police say Indian troops have killed a militant in Kashmir

NEW DELHI (AP)—Indian troops have killed a suspected militant during an operation in the northern part of the Indian-controlled Kashmir, the region’s police chief said. Jammu and Kashmir police chief Dilbagh Singh said that Asif Maqbool Bhat was killed in a brief shootout Wednesday morning in Sopore town. He said Bhat was a member of the Pakistan backed Lashkar-e-Taiba militant group. Singh said Bhat was responsible for a recent shootout in which three members of a fruit trader’s family and a 5-year-old girl were wounded, as well as an earlier shooting targeting a migrant laborer from India. Kashmir has been divided between India and Pakistan since they won independence from Britain in 1947. Both claim the region in its entirety and have fought two wars over the territory.

SKorea asks IOC to ban ‘rising sun’ flag at Tokyo Olympics

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea has formally asked the International Olympic Committee to ban the Japanese “rising sun” flag at next year’s Tokyo Games, calling it a symbol of Japan’s brutal wartime past and comparing it with the Nazi swastika. South Korea’s Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism on Wednesday said it sent a letter to IOC President Thomas Bach expressing “deep disappointment and concern” over Japanese plans to allow the flag in stadiums and other facilities during the 2020 Olympics. South Korean Olympic officials last month urged the local organizing committee to ban the flag, but Tokyo organizers responded by saying it was widely used in Japan, was not considered a political statement and “it is not viewed as a prohibited item.” The flag, portraying a red sun with 16 rays extending outward, is resented by many South Koreans, who still harbor animosity over Japan’s 1910-1945 colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula.

China to boost pork output as swine fever drives up prices

BEIJING (AP)—China is launching a nationwide initiative to boost pork production following a price spike blamed on a devastating outbreak of African swine fever. The government will take steps to accelerate the revival of hog production, prevent and control African swine fever and upgrade farms to further ensure pork supply and stable prices, officials from several ministries said at a joint news conference Wednesday. “We are confident and capable of rising to the challenge, dissolving the risks and doing well in keeping prices in the pig market stable,” said Peng Shaozong of the National Development and Reform Commission. He said government agencies will closely monitor and analyze pork prices, stabilize production and regulate the market price.



Local residents sing a theme song written by protesters “Glory be to thee” at a shopping mall in Hong Kong Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2019.

Philippines: China wanted to restrict foreign forces at sea

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine foreign secretary said Wednesday that China has sought to restrict the presence of foreign military powers in the South China Sea and foreign involvement in oil and gas projects in the disputed region under a pact it’s negotiating with Southeast Asian nations.

Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. said in an interview with ABS-CBN News Channel, however, that China has eased up on those demands, removing potential obstacles in the conclusion of the so-called “code of conduct” that it’s negotiating with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

China and the 10-nation ASEAN bloc have been negotiating the nonaggression pact in an effort to deter aggressive acts by Beijing and other claimant states that could spark a major armed confrontation in the disput-

ed territories, which straddle some of the world’s busiest sea lanes.

ASEAN and China have agreed to keep the negotiations confidential, although China’s insistence that the proposed code should restrict foreign military presence and exercises in the disputed region has leaked out and been reported by some media outlets. At least two Southeast Asian diplomats have confirmed those Chinese demands to The Associated Press.

When asked about the code by the ABS-CBN News Channel, Locsin said the negotiations have been “very contentious for a while,” with China insisting that no “foreign military power should be having military presence in the South China Sea” and if “you want to develop oil and gas, they’ll only be with us.”

“The reports we’re getting now, is this, China is mel-

lowing. It’s no longer insisting on the exclusion of foreign powers. It’s no longer insisting on this and that,” Locsin said. “So I brought this basically to, you know, the enemies of China and some of our allies.”

There was no immediate comment from Chinese or U.S. government officials. China has frowned on U.S. military patrols and exercises in the strategic waterway.

China has been accused of delaying the start of negotiations for such a regional pact for years. Critics say it only agreed to commence formal talks with ASEAN after Beijing completed building seven islands in the Spratlys, the most contested area in the South China Sea. The proposed code could have potentially restrained China from undertaking such major constructions in the disputed waters, the critics say.

Four ASEAN member states—Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam—along with China and Taiwan, have been locked in the long-simmering disputes, which escalated when China turned seven disputed reefs into islands that could serve as forward bases to project China’s military might against rival states.

Opponents have played down the significance of the code, saying China would never sign an accord that would undermine its interests. But Locsin said China’s easing up on some of its demands showed that “there is a prospect of a fair, just and objective code of conduct in the South China Sea.”

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has told his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, that completion of the code should be hastened amid tensions among rival claimants, Locsin said.

World

After Dorian, Bahamas tackles massive clean-up

HIGH ROCK, Bahamas (AP)—Pastor Jeremiah Saunders stood in the golden afternoon sun and barely blinked as he debated what to pick out from the ruins of the church he built 22 years ago in the seaside village of High Rock on the eastern end of Grand Bahama island.

A black-and-blue tie floated nearby in a pool of water and beyond that a ruptured set of drums toppled. Nearby, bone-white sea shells nestled in tufts of grass, flung by surging floodwaters that a week ago carried Saunders for 200 yards until he grabbed hold of a large pine tree and spent two days on a branch after Hurricane Dorian hit the island.

"I spoke to the water: 'Peace, be still.' It never listened," Saunders said Wednesday with a wide smile. But then he grew serious as he focused on the daunting cleanup task facing the tens of thousands of Bahamians who live on the two islands in the northern Bahamas that were devastated by the Category 5 storm.

FREEPORT, Bahamas (AP)—An estimated 2,500 people are listed as missing in the Bahamas in Hurricane Dorian's aftermath, the government said Wednesday. But it cautioned that the names had yet to be checked against the rosters of people evacuated from the devas-



A shattered and water-filled coffin lays exposed to the elements in the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian, at the cemetery in McLean's Town, Grand Bahama, Bahamas, Wednesday Sept. 11, 2019.

tated islands or staying in shelters.

Carl Smith, a spokesman for the country's National Emergency Management Agency, said he expected the list to shrink as the names are checked.

More than a week after Dorian smashed thousands of homes on the country's Grand Bahama and Abaco

islands, the death toll stood at 50 and was expected to rise, with search-and-rescue crews still making their way through the ruins.

It will be slow process that some are tackling in very small steps. Saunders picked out two hammers, five screwdrivers and three treasured Bibles.

In contrast, 67-year-old

Mary Ginton in the nearby fishing village of McLean's Town wasted no time getting rid of all her ruined possessions. She created three piles of clothes stiffened by mud and water and set them on fire. A white lace curtain, a bright pink wind-breaker and an old pair of black pants soon went into the flames. She most lamented that all her church

clothes were ruined.

"I love blue, and most of my dresses are blue," she said standing near the fire in green flip-flops, her legs caked with mud. She also lamented the loss of her 1-year-old pet hog, Princess.

A preliminary report estimates Dorian caused a total of some \$7 billion in damage, but the government of the Ba-

hamas has not yet offered any figures. Crews have started to remove some debris on both islands, but they are moving slowly to avoid accidentally disturbing any bodies lying in the rubble. The official death toll stands at 50, and Prime Minister Hubert Minnis said he expects the number to significantly increase.

As the cleanup continues, the first hints of normalcy could be seen in Freeport, a city on Grand Bahama that is operated by a private company, which provides utilities and charges residents without any government intervention. Lights began to flicker on in some neighborhoods, and crews were seen repairing transformers in other areas.

Among those celebrating the return of electricity was rental car company driver Clifton Williams, who was driving home from work when he saw an illuminated streetlight for the first time since the hurricane.

"I didn't expect that so quickly," he said. "First thing I do, I cut on the fan and cool off myself," he added, saying he slept well for the first time in more than a week thanks to the fan.

But the small villages that dot the eastern coast of Grand Bahama have barely received any help. Some residents hitchhike daily from Freeport to their destroyed homes to sort through their belongings and clean up.

Iran urges US to 'put warmongers aside' after Bolton firing

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran's president urged the U.S. on Wednesday to "put warmongers aside" as tensions roil the Persian Gulf amid an escalating crisis between Washington and Tehran in the wake of the collapsing nuclear deal with world powers.

Hassan Rouhani's remarks signaled approval of President Donald Trump's abrupt dismissal of John Bolton as national security adviser, a man routinely pilloried by Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif as part of a "B Team" that targeted Iran.

Bolton had for years been critical of Tehran and once promised before an Iranian exile group that they'd be celebrating the overthrow of Iran's government this year.

Bolton's departure also comes amid speculation about Trump potentially meeting Rouhani during the upcoming U.N. General Assembly this month in New York. Whether such a meeting materializes, however, remains in question,

though Iranian comments Wednesday seemed to suggest Tehran would be willing to pin hostilities on the departing Bolton rather than Trump himself.

Rouhani spoke after a Cabinet meeting Wednesday, a day that saw all major newspapers in Iran cover Bolton's departure. The pro-reform Shargh daily newspaper had one large headline that read: "Bolton: A scapegoat for Iran?"

"Americans have to realize that warmongering and warmongers are not to their benefit," the Iranian president said in televised remarks. "They should not only abandon warmongering but also abandon their maximum pressure policy."

Rouhani, in a phone call with French President Emmanuel Macron later Wednesday, repeated his position that if Europe finalizes a way for Iran to sell its oil, Iran would return to the nuclear deal's commitments. He also reiterated that lifting U.S. sanc-

tions would bring Tehran back to the negotiating table with world powers, but the post to his official website detailing the call with Macron did not elaborate on what might be up for negotiation. Rouhani said as long as sanctions remain, "negotiating with the U.S. makes no sense."

Ali Rabiei, a government spokesman, said after the meeting that Bolton's dismissal may help the U.S. have a "less biased" attitude toward Iran.

Though he stressed the dismissal was an internal U.S. issue, Rabiei called Bolton "the symbol of America's hawkish policies and its animosity toward Iran."

For his part, Zarif again used Twitter to write about what he calls the #B_Team, which included Bolton, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, all hawks on Iran.

Few turn out as Mugabe is returned to a Zimbabwe in crisis

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—Zimbabwe's founding leader Robert Mugabe made his final journey back to the country Wednesday, his body flown into the capital amid the contradictions of his long, controversial rule.

President Emmerson Mnangagwa, Mugabe's closest ally and vice president before joining the military-led effort to oust him in 2017, addressed the airport gathering of about 1,000, praising Mugabe as "our revolutionary commander ... an icon of pan-Africanism" and "the man who created our nation."

The former guerrilla leader, who died Friday at 95 in a hospital in Singapore, led the fight to end white-minority rule in what was then Rhodesia, and ruled Zimbabwe from its independence in 1980 until he was deposed. During his 37-year authoritarian leadership, Zimbabwe descended from prosperity to economic crisis marked by hyperinflation, unemployment and a drastic

drop in living conditions for its 16 million people.

Wednesday's subdued airport gathering was a far cry from the tumultuous crowd of 100,000 that swarmed the airport in January 1980 to welcome Mugabe back after years in exile. That boisterous greeting rocked Rhodesia and was a dramatic signal that its days of white minority rule were numbered. Within months Mugabe was elected president and sworn in as the leader of the new nation of Zimbabwe.

By contrast, no supporters were seen lining the streets of Zimbabwe's capital on Wednesday to mark the passing of the country's founding leader. Harare otherwise bustled with residents scrambling to cope with the country's economic deterioration, with vehicles lined up for scarce fuel, people gathering to pump water from neighborhood wells because of a widespread shortage and currency dealers selling cash.

The shortages and power cuts lasting up to 19 hours a day are the latest symptoms of Zimbabwe's economic decline that began in 2000 when Mugabe launched the seizures of farms owned by whites. The chaotic, often violent confiscations triggered a collapse of the once productive agricultural sector and began a downward economic spiral. Further mismanagement brought about hyperinflation reaching more than a billion percent in 2009, which was only halted when the country abandoned its currency for the U.S. dollar.

Mnangagwa has vowed to return Zimbabwe to affluence but in his nearly two years in power he has not succeeded in eradicating corrosive corruption or achieving substantial economic growth.

Mugabe's body was to be displayed at several historic locations before burial Sunday at an as yet unannounced site, a sign of the friction between the ex-leader's family and the government.

Off The Wall

Florida man parks Smart car in kitchen so it won't blow away



In this Sept. 3, 2019 photo made available by Jessica Eldridge shows her husband's Smart car parked in their kitchen in Jacksonville, Fla.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)—It started as a light-hearted challenge between a Florida couple, can a Smart car fit into their kitchen? The answer: Yes it can.

Patrick Eldridge parked his smart car in his kitchen to protect it from Hurricane Dorian because he didn't want it to "blow away" and to prove that he can park his car there.

Jessica Eldridge said her car was already parked in the garage. To avoid cleaning their

garage out, her husband proposed to park it in the house.

"I said there was no way he could. He said he could," Jessica said. "So he opened the double doors and had it in. I was amazed that it could fit. He had it in with no problems."

Dorian was skirting Florida's coast Wednesday, narrowly missing Jacksonville as it heads northward along the Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina coastlines.

The Category 2 storm has devastated the Bahamas, where rescue crews have only begun taking the full measure of the damage.

With the car in the middle of the kitchen, Jessica Eldridge had to move around it to cook and serve dinner.

"I'm hoping he will pull it out pretty soon once the wind dies down," she said. "There is room and it's not in the way but my dogs are confused by it."

AP

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Sweden rejects TRUMP vanity license plate request

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)—Swedish authorities say that a man has been denied a vanity plate with the letters TRUMP because it violated motor vehicle department rules, calling the letter combination "offensive." The Aftonbladet tabloid, one of Sweden's largest newspapers, reported Saturday that the man said he "was drunk and thought it was fun to apply" online for a new license plate with U.S. President Donald Trump's last name "because the car is American." The Swedish Transport Agency confirmed its ruling to The Associated Press on Monday, saying it doesn't approve letter combinations referring to politics. It informed Marcus Saaf, who made the request, that its ruling couldn't be appealed.

Man calls police demanding they return his stolen pot

SHARONVILLE, Ohio (AP)—A man confused about Ohio drug laws has called a police department demanding that officers return the small amount of

marijuana they "stole" from him. WXIX-TV reports the man told a Sharonville police dispatcher in an expletive-laced call Tuesday that it's legal to possess 100 grams (3.5 ounces) of marijuana, and the amount officers seized was just 4 grams (0.14 ounces). Sharonville police posted a recording of the call on their Facebook page. The suburban Cincinnati department wryly noted: "People may be a bit in the weeds, so we would like to take this opportunity to clear the haze." While some Ohio cities have decriminalized pot possession, it remains illegal in the state. Sharonville police said they "don't make the rules" but must uphold them.

Slovenian flight canceled over a 250-euro penalty

LJUBLJANA, Slovenia (AP)—A Slovenian news agency says an airliner canceled a flight to Vienna for fear its plane would be seized because of a 250-euro (\$275) penalty it owes to an Austrian citizen. The STA news agency said Friday that the debt stemmed from an Adria Airways flight the Austrian booked back home from Greece in 2017 that

was eventually cancelled. STA says the Austrian citizen took the case to an organization for passenger rights which eventually turned to a court that ruled in the passenger's favor. Thursday's short flight from the Slovenian capital Ljubljana to Vienna was cancelled after an Austrian enforcement agent appeared at the airport accompanied by police officers and a lawyer.

After canceling the flight, Adria Airways transported the passengers by bus.

Wheels stolen from New Mexico speed limit monitoring device

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—A mobile speed limit monitoring trailer in Albuquerque can still monitor speeding motorists but can't be moved because thieves recently stole its tires. KOB-TV reports that police said Thursday that the wheels of the speed trailer were stolen and the device is now stationary after it was put on metal pegs. Police say the speed monitor still shows drivers how fast they are going and tracks the data. Authorities say the trailer will be repaired. No arrests have been made.

Science & Technology

WITH \$5-A-MONTH STREAMING SERVICE

Apple takes on Netflix

CUPERTINO, Calif. (AP)—Apple is finally taking on Netflix with its own streaming television service and, uncharacteristically for the company, offering it at a bargain price—\$5 a month beginning on Nov. 1.

Walt Disney Co. is launching its own assault on Netflix the same month, for just \$7.

It may be sheer coincidence that the cost of paying for both Apple and Disney subscriptions will still be a dollar less than Netflix's main plan, priced at \$13 a month. But the intent to disrupt Netflix's huge lead in the streaming business couldn't be clearer.

Apple delivered the news Tuesday while also unveiling three new iPhones that



Apple CEO Tim Cook talks about the latest iPhone during an event to announce new products Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2019, in Cupertino, Calif.

AP

won't look much different than last year's models other than boasting an additional camera for taking pictures from extra-wide angles.

The aggressive pricing is unusual for Apple, which typ-

ically charges a premium for products and services to burnish its brand. Most analysts expected Apple to charge \$8 to \$10 per month for the service, which will be called Apple TV Plus.

How to end or prevent online hacking harassment

Q: Over the last three years, I've been the victim of harassment via the internet and cell-phone calls. I've reported it to the police and the FBI, but they haven't been able to stop it. Do you have any idea what I can do about the following:

■ My husband and I use Wi-Fi to access the internet on our iPhones, but I'm having trouble logging in to social media, particularly Facebook. The activity logs in both our Facebook accounts show that IP addresses other than ours have been logging in to the accounts.

■ About two years ago, my Gmail account suddenly started getting about 400 pornographic spam e-mails a month.

■ My iPhone has failed to receive multiple phone calls, e-mails and texts that friends and relatives say they sent to me.

■ On my previous phone, an Android, calls from the local sheriff's office were cut off before I could answer them. A deputy said my phone number appeared to be blocking him (it wasn't).

■ When the same Android phone was sitting on a dresser, my husband I heard it make odd noises in the middle of the night.

■ My tablet computer started getting locked out of my Instagram account at the same time that an un-

TECH Q&A

By **STEVE ALEXANDER**
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)



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identified white cargo van stopped in our neighbors' driveway. The driver told the neighbor he stopped because he liked their house lights.

A: The common thread in all these incidents is wireless communications.

One possibility is that someone is blocking your Wi-Fi and cellphone signals using an illegal device called a "jammer." Another possibility is that someone has hacked your home Wi-Fi router and installed malware on it that is affecting all of your devices.

How could your wireless signals be remotely blocked? A jammer near your home can interfere with the Wi-Fi, cellular or GPS radio frequencies. (See the Federal Communications Commission website, tinyurl.com/jv4v24g). Although jammers are illegal in the U.S., they can easily be purchased online.

The only way to prevent jamming is to report it to the police. I suggest you keep a log of when Wi-Fi or cellular signal interruptions occur. Note the date, time and dura-

tion of each incident and also take note of any unfamiliar vehicles in your neighborhood at the time (the range of jammers varies, but is often no more than 150 feet.)

How are Wi-Fi routers hacked? Sometimes hackers use sheer technical skill, but more often they gain access because no one changed the router's default password (such passwords are well-known among hackers.) Once a router is hacked, it can spy on your internet communications (stealing social media passwords, for example), help hackers attack your other Wi-Fi network devices and disrupt your internet access.

Replace your router. Many routers have their own protective firewalls (see tinyurl.com/mt6cfml). And, of course, change the new router's default password.

Remember that if your router has been hacked, your computers may have been, too. Download the free Malicious Software Removal Tool from Microsoft (see tinyurl.com/z85al7o), or the free version of the Malwarebytes security program (see tinyurl.com/j32jr94).

Life & Style

Smartphone, Matchbox cars among Toy Hall of Fame finalists

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (AP)—The smartphone is being considered for induction into the National Toy Hall of Fame this year in recognition of its impact on how people play and interact.

The other finalists announced Wednesday are: Care Bears, the coloring book, Fisher-Price Corn Popper, Jenga, Magic the Gathering, Masters of the Universe, Matchbox cars, My Little Pony, Nerf Blaster, Risk, and the top.

The smartphone earned a place among the 12 finalists because of its status as a platform for countless mobile games and playful interactions, including sending GIFs and altering photos, hall of fame officials said.

The winners will be inducted Nov. 7. Last year's honorees were the Magic 8 Ball, pinball and Uno.

"These 12 toys represent the wide scope of play—from the simple, traditional spinning top that has been played with since pre-history to the ultra-modern smartphone which has dramatically changed how people of all ages play and connect," said Christopher Bensch, vice president for collections.

Anyone can nominate a toy for consideration by the hall of fame, located inside The Strong museum in Rochester. The winners are selected with input from historians, educators and other experts who make up a national selection committee, as well as fans who can vote for their favorite online.

To make it into the hall, toys have to be innovative, widely recognized, shown to be more than a passing fad and foster learning, creativity or discovery through play. Sixty-eight



In this Aug. 13, 2019 photo provided by the National Toy Hall of Fame are the 2019 finalists, from left to right, Jenga, Magic the Gathering, My Little Pony, Coloring Book, Matchbox Cars, Top, Nerf Blaster, Risk, Masters of the Universe, Care Bears, Smartphone, and Fisher-Price Corn Popper.

toys currently occupy the National Toy Hall of Fame.

More about this year's finalists from the hall of fame:

Care Bears: Funshine Bear and friends were created in the 1980s as a line of greeting card characters for the American Greetings Corp. but grew to star in television shows and games. In 2015, Netflix launched an animated series

around them.

The coloring book: No longer just for kids, a new genre of coloring books featuring more complex designs has caught on with adults.

Fisher-Price Corn Popper: Toddlers have been pushing the wheeled toy along since 1957, watching and listening to the bright balls inside pop.

Jenga: The game in which

players stack blocks and then try to remove them without toppling the tower was created by Englishwoman Leslie Scott based on wooden blocks from her childhood in Africa.

Magic the Gathering: The collectible card game was so popular when Wizards of the Coast released it in 1993 that the firm couldn't keep up with demand. The fantasy-themed

game requires both chance and skill.

Masters of the Universe: Mattel's action figures, including He-Man and She-Ra, were featured in a cartoon series from 1983 to 1985 and have been on toothbrushes, sleeping bags and other merchandise.

Matchbox cars: The toy cars debuted in 1952 and, by 1960, were selling at a rate of more than 100 million a year in the United States. If inducted, they would join competitor Hot Wheels, which already have a place in the National Toy Hall of Fame.

Prison release imminent for reality star 'The Situation'

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—"Jersey Shore" cast member Mike "The Situation" Sorrentino is about to regain his freedom.



Sorrentino

The Federal Bureau of Prison's website says the reality television star is scheduled to be released from prison in Otisville, New York, on Thursday. His publicist confirmed his pending release to NJ.com.

Sorrentino has served about eight months for tax evasion.

He and brother pleaded guilty last year to tax offenses related to nearly \$9 million in income. Marc Sorrentino was sentenced to two years.

At his sentencing last fall, The Situation told the judge that he was trying to overcome years of drug and alcohol abuse.

The Situation appeared on all six original seasons of the reality show from 2009 to 2012, chronicling the lives of rowdy housemates in the town of Seaside Heights.

'Harriet,' the first film about Tubman, premieres in Toronto

TORONTO (AP)—Hard as it may be to believe, "Harriet" is the first feature film about Harriet Tubman.

Kasi Lemmons' movie about the Underground Railroad leader premiered Tuesday night at the Toronto International Film Festival where festival director Cameron Bailey, introducing the film, noted the cinematic injustice of Tubman only now making it to the big screen.

"There are 30 films about Gen. Custer," said Bailey. "This is the first film about Harriet Tubman."

"Harriet," starring 32-year-old British actress Cynthia Erivo, presents a younger, more vibrant picture of Tubman, whose accomplishments have often been entombed in middle-school



Erivo

history books. And the best-known appearance of Tubman, who was in her late 20s when she escaped from slavery and began going back South to help others to freedom, has largely been of her as an older woman.

"There are pictures of her

that have been painted from the wrong time period almost," said Erivo, the Tony-winning actress of the Broadway revival of "The Color Purple." "It's important to know this was a really young woman who took a lot of risk in what she was doing."

Tubman, whose original name was Araminta Ross, was born into slavery in 1820 or 1821 on the eastern shore of Maryland. In 1849, she fled to Philadelphia, after which a

reward for her recapture was posted. But Tubman returned to the South to lead other slaves to freedom, conducting more than 70 people through the Underground Railroad network of abolitionists.

She worked as a scout, spy and nurse for the Union Army during the Civil War. In 1863, she helped lead 150 black soldiers on a gunboat raid in South Carolina. With Col. James Montgomery, she rescued more than 700 slaves. Tubman also became a noted suffragette before dying in 1913.

Friend wants to be ready when man asks for help

DEAR ABBY: I'm watching the slow-motion destruction of a childhood friend on Facebook. There is substance abuse, infidelity, divorce, the whole lot. It hurts.

He recently admitted that he has struggled with depression for years, but insists he isn't interested in seeing a doctor or a counselor. It sounds like he's been burned in the past. I know I can't do anything until he asks for help, but I intend to be there when he does. What resources are available for someone who is clinically depressed and self-medicating?

TRYING TO HELP IN THE WEST

DEAR TRYING: Support groups for people who are depressed and/or have emotional issues exist. But to join one, the person must admit there is a problem and help is needed. Because your friend is resistant to the idea of professional help, you might suggest a group called Emotions Anonymous. It was started in 1971, and its mission is to help people who are experiencing emotional difficulties. It offers chat, Skype and phone meetings as well as in-person groups. If you would like more information, you can find it at emotionsanonymous.org.

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating this woman for a few years. We aren't in a committed relationship, but she wants me exclusively to herself. She's a very jealous type, and a comment

she made took me over the edge.

She told me that my late wife's picture should only be displayed in my children's room, and that I'm still holding onto her, which is preventing me from moving forward with any woman. I will never remove any pictures of my children's mother out of respect not only for my departed loved one but for my children as well. What do you think of this?

RESPECTFUL IN TEXAS

DEAR RESPECTFUL: If you keep a photo of your late wife next to your bed, I can see how it might bother someone you have been dating for a few years — particularly if you haven't made a commitment to her. That said, if displaying a picture of your wife in a public room of your home is so threatening to this woman that she would make the kind of scene you describe, it may be time to replace her with someone who is less easily threatened.

DEAR ABBY: I have been happily married (for the most part) to my husband of 40 years. He is a good husband, provider and father. Only one thing about him really bothers me. When he is telling someone a story, he frequently "embellishes" it and changes it to something that's not actually the truth.

What he says doesn't really matter or hurt anyone, but it still bothers me. It makes me wonder if what he is telling me about something is the correct version or "his" version.

Like I said, it is never anything of importance, so I don't un-

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



derstand why he even does it. I have asked him about it, and he doesn't really explain. Do you have any idea what would make a person do this?

WIFE IN WONDERLAND

DEAR WIFE: Some people "embellish" to impress or to make themselves look more important, or because they think it will make the story more entertaining or exciting. Not knowing your husband, I can't answer for him. It might help to reassure him that you love him just the way he is, and the truth is always better than fiction.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

OK, MOE'S GOT HIS BACK TO ME! NOW I'LL ZIP OVER, STEAL MY TRUCK BACK AND RUN LIKE CRAZY!

HE'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT HIT HIM! BY THE TIME HE SEES THE TRUCK IS GONE, I'LL BE A MILE AWAY! IT'S A FAIL-PROOF PLAN! NOTHING CAN GO WRONG! IT'S A SNAP!

THERE'S NO REASON TO HESITATE. IT'LL BE OVER IN A SPLIT SECOND, AND I'LL BE GLAD TO HAVE MY TRUCK BACK! I'LL JUST DO IT AND BE DONE! NOTHING TO IT! IT'S EASY!

OBVIOUSLY MY BODY DOESN'T BELIEVE A WORD MY BRAIN IS SAYING.

Garfield®

LET'S BAKE COOKIES!

NICE IDEA!

SHOVE

Jim Davis 9/13

Adam@home

WHAT DO YOU DO WITH YOUR HANDS WHEN YOU DANCE?

AH, THAT'S THE ETERNAL QUESTION. YOU CAN GO ARMS UP, HANDS LOOSE...

OR 'SNAPPY FINGERS'.

WHAT ABOUT "HANDS ON HEAD"?

IT CAN BE DONE, BUT YOU RISK A HULA GIRL SITUATION.

The Duplex

WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE THINGS HAVE CALMED DOWN BETWEEN THE U.S. AND NORTH KOREA.

SO IT APPEARS WE'VE DODGED A FULL-BLOWN NUCLEAR WAR AND THE PLANET'S DESTRUCTION.

DANG, THEN I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO PAY NEXT MONTH'S RENT.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Six-pack muscles

4 Pinnacle

8 Uber competitors

12 King, in Cannes

13 Chantilly, e.g.

14 Piercing tools

15 Martini, for one

17 Lunch hour

18 Victor's cry

19 Fabric bundles

20 World record?

22 Chaste

24 Futile

25 Fly behind a motorboat

29 JFK info

30 Orderly grouping

31 French vineyard

32 Guaranteed to succeed

34 "Lion King" villain

35 Farm fathers

36 Hefty portion

37 Gather wool

40 Equitable

41 Contain

42 Reduced-rate postal delivery

46 Leer at

47 Oklahoma tribe

48 —

49 Despot

50 Siestas

51 "You bet!"

2 Scary cry

3 Thick-crust pizza style

4 Choir members

5 "Misery" star

6 Roman 1101

7 Snaky fish

8 Lake rentals

9 MP's quarry

10 Inky stain

11 Taxpayer IDs

16 Olympic skater

19 Hee-haw

20 Opposite of "sans"

21 "Toodle-oo!"

22 Seine city

23 Russian river

25 Baby carriage

26 Precision

27 Tehran's country

28 Hide in the bushes

30 Miles away

33 Merchant

34 Leveling wedge

36 Bake-sale offerings

37 Attempt

38 Swine

39 First lady of scat

40 Broadway failure

42 "— voyage!"

43 Tony-winner

44 Hagen

45 Anger

45 — Alamos

Solution time: 25 mins.

T	E	E	M	T	I	P	A	S	O	F
A	T	T	J	J	R	L	D	A	D	A
B	A	N	G	L	S	L	I	N	D	I
S	T	A	S	I	S	M	O	O	D	
M	A	N	O	R	H	E	A	D	M	A
A	L	O	T	A	E	R	R	E		
C	O	T	I	N	A	R	O	P	E	R
H	E	A	D	W	A	I	T	E	R	
N	O	A	A	R	I	O	A	N	T	E
F	L	I	P	A	M	S	C	E	R	V
L	I	N	E	M	O	E	O	W	E	S

Yesterday's answer 9-13

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lili Reinhart, 23; Ben Savage, 39; Jean Smart, 68; Jacqueline Bisset, 75.

Happy Birthday: Go on an adventure, gain experience and incorporate what you discover into your life. Progress will be the result of patience and a desire to visualize how you can take the best of what you experience and turn it into something that brings you unity, equality and satisfaction. Peace, love and a positive attitude are key. A healthier diet and exercise routine are encouraged. Your numbers are 8, 12, 20, 27, 34, 38, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Expand your mind. Find out all you can about what others do and what they have to offer. Being aware of what's available and how you can use your skills to fit into a unique position will lead to your success. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Stay focused on what's important. Leave nothing to chance or undone. Concentrate on the essential details that can make a difference in the outcome of a situation that involves joint expenses. Progress depends on reliability. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Use caution when dealing with groups or organizations that are set in their ways. Don't indulge in something because someone else does. Pick what fits your budget and lifestyle, and works well with what you want to accomplish. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't be shy. Nothing will happen if you don't take the initiative. Believe in your ability to turn an idea into something spectacular. Home

improvements and better relationships should be priorities. Be bold. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Situations will not be as they appear. Joint ventures will not fulfill your expectations. Go on a hunt for information, alternative options and people who can provide the skills you need to achieve your objective. Choose quality over quantity. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Get involved in what's going on around you. Attending community events, learning and discovering ways to use your skills and knowledge will improve life for you as well as others. Discover what's available and how best to enhance your lifestyle. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take note what others are doing. Look over your medical, financial or legal documents to make sure everything is updated. Avoid overspending on items you don't need or letting an oversight on your part turn into a costly mistake. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Participation is in your best interest. What you contribute and the people you encounter along the way will initiate prospects that can help you advance. A partnership will undergo a positive change that will give you something to think about. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Know what and who you are up against before you get involved in something that could quickly get out of control. Move forward alone, and oversee every detail that can influence your position, reputation and financial standing. **

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Send out a message to those you want to work alongside. Offering a suggestion will spark all sorts of input that can help you bring about positive change to the way you live. A romantic encounter will boost your confidence. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Make decisions that will encourage personal growth and the chance to use your skills diversely. Don't let the changes others make cause confusion or make you question what you are doing. Follow your heart, not someone else's dream. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Express your likes and dislikes, and offer a plan that will improve your relationship with the people you live and work alongside. If you make a pitch, don't exaggerate. Facts and figures will attract participants. ***

Birthday Baby: You are intense, progressive and focused. You are imaginative and detailed.

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13					14		
15			16					17		
		18						19		
20	21				22	23				
24				25				26	27	28
29			30					31		
32			33					34		
		35						36		
37	38	39				40				
41				42	43				44	45
46				47				48		
49				50				51		

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	3		4			1		
1	9			3	6			
				8				2
7							8	
	2	1				5	3	
	6							9
5			7					
			1	9			6	3
		6		3		4		

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

5	1	2	4	7	9	6	3	8
6	9	8	1	3	5	2	7	4
4	7	3	8	6	2	5	1	9
9	8	7	3	2	6	4	5	1
1	2	6	5	9	4	3	8	7
3	4	5	7	8	1	9	6	2
8	5	9	6	4	7	1	2	3
7	6	4	2	1	3	8	9	5
2	3	1	9	5	8	7	4	6

Difficulty Level ★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID CUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

CARPORTS

Solution: 10 letters

C S D H B D E S O L C N E P F
O S E E L E N G T H C R L R L
T A H L O P E N S A U I E O A
T V C Y C O V E R T M E M T T
A N A T K I K S C I S H E E R
G A T S S C H U T T A X N C O
E C T I U E R E A V P T T T O
E F A R M U E R D N V O I I S I F
R G T W S B D I S S D N E O E
U F A P N I E E S W L P Y N D
T R O R N I D R A T O O H L E
S A B G A I N L P R S O O A S
I M O R W G L G T T M O D T I
O E C A P S S A L E N A P E G
M U N I M U L A E L I B O M N

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Yesterday's Answer: Wine

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France eliminates US in World Cup

DONGGUAN, China (AP)—No gold. No medal. No more winning streak.

The U.S. reign atop international basketball has ended — this time, thwarted by France at the World Cup.

For the first time since 2006, the U.S. sent NBA players to a major international tournament and won't win gold. Evan Fournier scored 22 points, Rudy Gobert had 21 points and 16 rebounds and France beat the U.S. 89-79 in the World Cup quarterfinals on Wednesday, rallying from a seven-point fourth-quarter deficit to pull off the upset.

"Any loss hurts," U.S. coach Gregg Popovich said. "And in this situation, it hurts more. But life goes on. This is very important and we would have loved to have won ... but we're all grown, we all have families and lives and life goes on."

The U.S. had won 58 consecutive tournament games in FIBA and Olympic competition, starting with the bronze-medal game at the 2006 world championships and continuing through every FIBA Americas, World Cup and Olympics event since. It was bidding to become the first nation to win three consecutive World Cups, after winning three straight Olympic golds in that span.

The best the Americans can do now in China is finish fifth, and they're assured of their worst finish in a big tournament with NBA players since placing sixth at the 2002 world championships. They're going home with a berth in the 2020 Olympics secured but no medal.

Donovan Mitchell scored 29 points for the U.S., all of them coming in the first three quarters. The Americans came up scoreless on six consecutive possessions down the stretch, the drought that allowed the French to take con-



trol of a back-and-forth game for the final time.

"Just got to take it like a man at this point," U.S. guard Kemba Walker said. "We lost. There's nothing we can do. We competed. We've been competing since day one that we got to training camp. But we gave it everything we've got."

I know we're Team USA and things of that nature and they've been winning for a lot of years, but you know, we didn't get a chance to pull it off."

Nando De Colo scored 18 for France. The French held the U.S. to 4 for 15 shooting in

the fourth quarter—and benefited from the Americans going 4 for 11 from the foul line in the final 10 minutes.

"We came here to win gold," Gobert said. "We knew it wasn't going to be easy. A lot of people counted us out, but we got the win."

Gobert said beating the Americans wasn't the goal—winning gold is.

"It doesn't mean anything if you don't win in the end," Gobert said.

France was up 10 early in the second half. The U.S. went on a 31-14 run over the

next 10 minutes to go up by seven. And then the French responded with a 15-2 run over the next five minutes, going up 82-76 on a long jumper by Frank Ntilikina with 2:05 left.

Mitchell had a chance to get the U.S. within two with about a minute left, driving against Gobert—but the Utah center read what the Utah guard was going to do perfectly, swatting the try away.

"We beat the U.S., and that's huge, but we haven't won anything yet," France's Nicolas Batum said.

France had been 0-9 against the U.S. in major international

play, most of those outcomes one-sided affairs. But the last meeting between the nations was only a 100-97 U.S. win at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics three years ago, and France returned three players—Gobert, De Colo and Batum—who got minutes in that game.

None of the U.S. players who played that afternoon in Rio is on this year's World Cup team. France outrebounded the U.S. 21-12 in the first half, Gobert found his way to the line 10 times in the game's first 20 minutes and the Americans went into the break trailing 45-39. The U.S. had trailed for 8:25 in their first five games combined—and trailed for 11:24 in the first half alone on Wednesday.

Fournier's layup with 7:33 left in the third gave France a 53-43 lead, and that's when Mitchell got going.

He had 14 points in the third quarter, and his dunk with 2:40 left pulled the U.S. into a 60-60 tie. Marcus Smart made three free throws after getting fouled by Gobert to put the U.S. back on top, and the Americans took a 66-63 lead into the fourth.

But they couldn't finish it off. "At the end of the day, you've got to tip your cap to them," U.S. guard Joe Harris said. "They outplayed us. They deserved to win. We certainly didn't deserve to win that game."

Gobert played the first 12:26. The longest he went before getting his first break in a Jazz game last season was 11:30.

Ntilikina scored 11 for France. The U.S. didn't turn the ball over at a very high rate—11 times—but France converted those giveaways into 22 points.

Smart scored 11 and Walker had 10 for the U.S. Before Mitchell's offensive outburst Wednesday, the previous single-game scoring high for any U.S. player at this World Cup was Jaylen Brown's 20-point game against Japan in the opening group round. Jayson Tatum (sprained left ankle) missed his fourth consecutive game.

Popovich had the highest praise for France and coach Vincent Collet. "It's the best French team I've seen, because they play on both ends of the court," Popovich said.

Australia 82, Czech Republic 70

Patty Mills scored 24 points and Australia moved into the World Cup semifinals with a victory over the Czech Republic.

Chris Goulding scored 14 and Andrew Bogut added 10 for Australia, which will meet Spain in Friday's semifinals.

France and Argentina will play in the other semifinal on Friday. France ousted the two-time defending World Cup champion U.S. 89-79 in another quarterfinal earlier Wednesday.

The first half was back and forth, with Australia leading 33-30 at the break. But a 30-18 third quarter was the difference for the Aussies, who led by as many as 17 in the second half.

Patrik Auda scored 21 points for the Czech Republic. Tomas Satoransky was one rebound shy of the first triple-double in World Cup history—he finished with 13 points, 13 assists and nine rebounds.

Australia, which beat the U.S. in an exhibition last month while tuning up for the World Cup, improved to 6-0 so far in China this summer.

DONGGUAN, China (AP)—USA Basketball's plan for a third consecutive World Cup title started going off the rails long before this tournament even began, after just about everyone who was originally asked to play for this team turned down the opportunity.

As such, this outcome was not exactly unexpected.

The Americans are not winning a medal at this World Cup, after they got outplayed by France in the quarterfinals on Wednesday night and got relegated to a playoff where the best remaining option is finishing fifth. France won 89-79, meriting much credit. Evan Fournier made tough shots and tougher passes. Rudy Gobert was outstanding. The French defense, with the game on the line,

Analysis: US World Cup plan went awry long ago

thwarted the U.S. repeatedly.

The better team won.

But the best team was at home.

Of the 35 players originally picked last year by USA Basketball for its roster pool this summer, four made it to China. The group that ultimately got assembled for this mission was a bunch of guys not even on the radar screens when this selection process began, a group that decided playing with and against really good players all summer—while getting coached by Gregg Popovich—was worth giving up nearly two months of an offseason.

They played hard. But there's no medal for playing hard.

"I know that people are going to focus on who we didn't have, but how about we focus on who we do have?" U.S. guard Donovan Mitchell said after his 29-point performance Wednesday night. "Our season ended, and we came out ready to work with Coach Pop and all his coaches. It's not about who's not here. I've been saying that for a while."

It bears noting that Mitchell was not on the original player-pool list. He chose to play and didn't mind being asked in the second wave. It's hard to imagine where the Americans would have been without him over the last few weeks.

Joe Harris was supposed to be a practice player for this

team and wound up becoming a starter. Derrick White wasn't supposed to be here either, and there were nights in this tournament where he was the first sub off the U.S. bench—not because Popovich was playing favorites with his San Antonio point guard, but because it was merited.

Marcus Smart and Jaylen Brown had big-time moments for this team and they, too, were not anywhere near the original U.S. wish list.

A lot of other NBA players might not have cared about the World Cup. Fans might not have, either. And there's not much incentive for multimillionaires to give up their time off, travel thousands of

miles to risk injury by playing in a tournament in which most of the games are not nationally televised in the United States.

Plus, plenty of players who have already won with USA Basketball often say they want to let someone else have a shot. That's not a new concept.

Losing just makes everyone look for easy solutions because, well, the thought is USA Basketball shouldn't lose—even when the other team has NBA players.

The good news in all this is the loss Wednesday probably won't get a whole lot of attention at home.

That's also the sad news.

Fact is, to most if not all players, an Olympic gold medal shines brighter than a FIBA gold medal. Same goes for an NBA title.

And those players who made the commitment to come to China realized this was pretty much a no-win proposition—win and you were supposed to, lose and it becomes a giant failure.

"Doesn't matter who is on the team, and I couldn't be more proud of these 12 guys who sacrificed their summer to come here, having never played with each other before," Popovich said. "They put themselves in the arena and competed, and they deserve credit for that, just like France deserves credit for winning. It's not about, 'Well, the United States didn't have their other guys.'

Brown practices, status for Sunday's game unclear

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—Patriots receiver Antonio Brown practiced with the team for the first time on Wednesday, a day after his former trainer filed a civil lawsuit in Florida accusing him of sexually assaulting her on three occasions.

Before the practice session, coach Bill Belichick declined to answer numerous questions about Brown, including his status for Sunday's game at Miami. He deferred to the Patriots' statement late Tuesday in which they said they were aware of the lawsuit and "take these allegations very seriously."

"Antonio and his representatives have made statements, so I'm not going to be expanding on any of those," Belichick said. "They are what they are. We've looked into the situation. We're taking it very seriously all the way through the organization. I'm sure there are questions, but I'm not going to enter into the discussion about that."

Brown has denied the allegations. Darren Heitner, a lawyer representing Brown, told The Associated Press his client plans to countersue. The NFL has declined to comment but will be opening an investigation into the matter.

Belichick was asked specifically about the possibility of Brown being placed on the commissioner's exempt list by Roger Goodell. That special designation, which is used at the discretion of Goodell to allow the league to conduct investigations into possible violations of the league's personal conduct policy, would prevent Brown from practicing or attending games while on the list.

Brown would, however, be eligible to continue being paid on

the one-year deal he signed Monday with the Patriots that could pay him \$15 million this season.

"We're preparing for one day at a time," Belichick said.

In the less than five-minute portion of practice open to the media, Brown wore a No. 1 jersey and a visor with his helmet while going through warmup drills with teammates. Brown has worn No. 84 throughout his previous nine NFL seasons, but that number is currently being worn by Patriots tight end Ben Watson.

Brown wasn't present in the locker room during the 45-minute period open to reporters. His locker, which is situated two stalls away from quarterback Tom Brady, had both doors shut.

Brady declined to comment on Brown's civil case or on a report that Brown was currently staying at Brady's house while he gets settled in New England.

"I'm just trying to show up



AP
New England Patriots wide receiver Antonio Brown (1) works out near wide receiver Gunner Olszewski, left, during an NFL football practice, Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2019, in Foxborough, Mass. Brown practiced with the team for the first time on Wednesday afternoon, a day after his former trainer filed a civil lawsuit in the Southern District of Florida accusing him of sexually assaulting her on three occasions.

and play football and try to prepare (for the Dolphins)," Brady said. "I'm gonna get ready for them and things that don't involve me don't involve me."

Safety Devin McCourty, in his 10th season in New England, said the Patriots teams he's been on have generally done a good job of blocking out distractions. Though he acknowledged Brown's situation is unique.

McCourty said the players realize how serious the allegations are against Brown.

"But I think from a football standpoint we've got to be prepared to go out there and play against the Dolphins on Sunday because that's what our job calls on us to do," he said.

McCourty said it's still too early to know what kind of teammate Brown will be.

"He's going through a personal situation and none of us really know him yet," McCourty said. "We're just starting to get to know guys. I think that's what you build on, just trying to get to know guys that come in here. ... I think that's all part of getting new teammates, to get to know them for yourself and not judging them on what's happened on other teams or different things, but just trying to get to know guys."

Rams get rematch with Saints after no-call

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP)—From his youth in central Florida to his college career at USC, Nickell Robey-Coleman dreamed of making a mark on NFL history.

The veteran defensive back never imagined his mark might end up being a rule change that exists mostly because officials in the last NFC championship game failed to flag him for committing pass interference at an extraordinarily inopportune time.

With his Los Angeles Rams (1-0) preparing for a rematch against the New Orleans Saints (1-0) on Sunday, Robey-Coleman is on a quest to become synonymous with something other than his

unpunished mistake against Tommylee Lewis late in regulation at the Superdome.

Robey-Coleman doesn't shy away from the notoriety that has made him exponentially more famous than his steady play for the Bills and the Rams during his seven-season NFL career.

He has learned to laugh at his awkward fortune—but he also wouldn't mind moving on whenever everyone else is ready.

"People always joke about it with me," Robey-Coleman said Wednesday. "It's fun and cool, but now I've got a new season, a new start. ... Didn't expect it to get that much pub, but it is what it is."

Robey-Coleman estimates

he has watched the replay "at least 4,000 or 5,000 times" since January.

For anyone who somehow missed it: The Saints had a third-and-10 from the Los Angeles 13 with 1:45 left in the fourth quarter of a tied game, and the Rams had just one timeout left. Drew Brees spotted Lewis coming free for a potential first-down catch, but so did Robey-Coleman.

Instead of going for an interception, Robey-Coleman delivered an early helmet-to-helmet hit that sent the wide-out tumbling to the ground. A flag would have put New Orleans in position to score go-ahead points with almost no time left on the clock —

but the officials didn't throw it, and the play wasn't reviewable on replay.

New Orleans kicked a field goal, but left enough time for Jared Goff to drive the Rams for a tying field goal of their own. After Brees threw an interception in overtime, Greg Zuerlein's 57-yard field goal sent the Rams to the Super Bowl.

Robey-Coleman has always acknowledged he got away with pass interference, even saying it moments after the Rams' 26-23 victory.

"Never disputed it," he said. "I'm on record. Told it how it was from the time that it happened until now. I never went against what I said. Just was clear and honest."

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Nationals beat Twins, boost wild card bid



MINNEAPOLIS (AP)

— The Washington Nationals relied on a couple of old standbys for an important victory toward their postseason push.

The Minnesota Twins, thinned out for the moment by a long list of injuries, could use someone healthy players to lean on.

Ryan Zimmerman homered and drove in three runs in support of Stephen Strasburg, who gave the Nationals six strong innings to beat the Twins 6-2 on Wednesday night for just their third win in the last nine games.

Juan Soto and Zimmerman hit RBI singles in the first inning against Martín Pérez, who fell further behind in the third when Howie Kendrick doubled in Soto with two outs and Zimmerman followed with his two-run smash into the left field seats for a 5-0 lead.

“We talk about it every day: Come out and try to get that lead early. You put the pressure on the other team right away,” manager Dave Martinez said.

Zimmerman, the all-time Nationals leader in almost every offensive category, added a few more to the pile with his second three-hit game of the season. The 34-year-old Zimmerman missed 90 games due to plantar fasciitis in his right foot, but he has three homers and 10 RBIs in seven games this month since returning.

The Nationals, who trail Atlanta by 9½ games in the NL East, took a 2½-game cushion between them and the Chicago Cubs for the two wild card spots, with the Cubs playing later in San Diego. The Nationals are 3½ games above the cut, ahead of Milwaukee.

Orioles 7, Dodgers 3

In Baltimore, Jonathan Villar hit a tiebreaking, record-setting three-run homer in the seventh inning, and the Orioles beat the Dodgers to end a six-game losing streak.

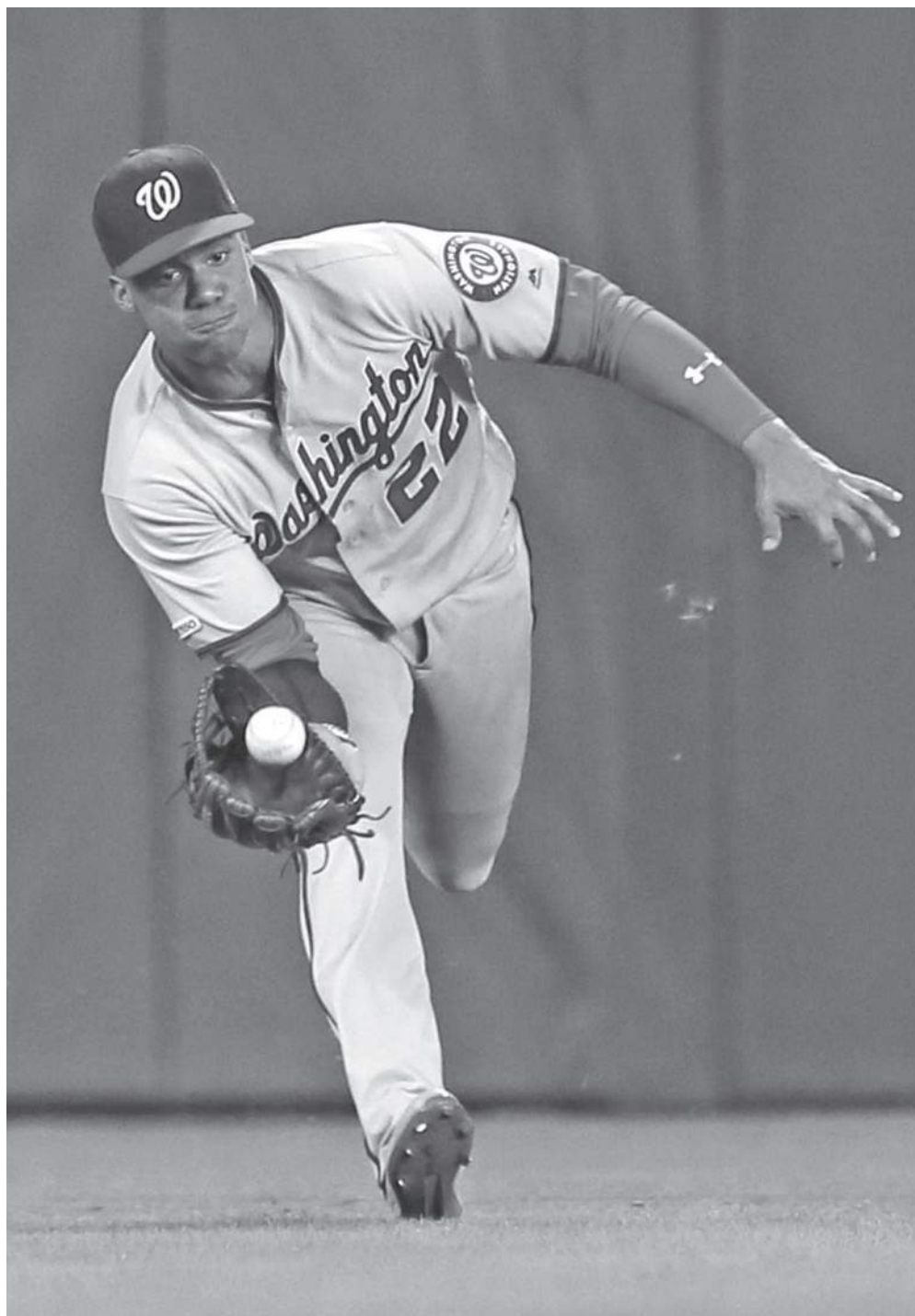
Villar’s drive off Caleb Ferguson (1-2) was the 6,106th in the majors this season, breaking the previous mark of 6,105 in 2017. The milestone shot came on a fastball that Villar sent deep into the left-field seats to snap a 2-2 deadlock.

Pedro Severino added a two-run drive in the eighth.

Having clinched the NL West title on Tuesday night, manager Dave Roberts rested starters Joc Pederson and Justin Turner.

Padres 4, Cubs 0

In San Diego, rookie Chris Paddack pitched six brilliant innings and the Padres dropped Chicago into a tie with Milwaukee for the sec-



ond NL wild-card spot.

Manuel Margot homered off San Diegan Cole Hamels and also made a spectacular catch in center field for the Padres.

The Cubs lost for the second straight night and for the fifth time in six games. Milwaukee beat Miami 7-5 in its first game since reigning MVP Christian Yelich suffered a season-ending knee injury. Philadelphia and the New York Mets are two games behind the Cubs and Brewers.

Blue Jays 8, Red Sox 0

In Toronto, Trent Thornton and three others combined on a two-hitter, Teoscar Hernández and Rowdy Tellez homered, and the Blue Jays beat Boston.

The slumping Red Sox have lost five straight. They had just four baserunners, and none advanced past second base.

Thornton (5-9) followed an opener with five hitless innings, walking one and striking out seven in his first career relief appearance.

Vladimir Guerrero Jr. had three RBIs and Cavan Biggio had two hits and scored twice as the Blue Jays won their second

straight following a season-long seven game losing streak.

Brewers 7, Marlins 5

In Miami, Mike Moustakas homered twice, including a tiebreaking, two-run shot in the ninth as Milwaukee defeated the Marlins in their first game following star outfielder Christian Yelich’s season-ending injury.

The Brewers won their sixth in a row and tied the Chicago Cubs for the second NL wild-card spot.

Trent Grisham, one of the outfielders expected to get additional playing time in Yelich’s absence, led off the game with a home run.

Moustakas broke a 5-all tie with a homer off Miami reliever Jose Urena (4-9).

Mets 9, Diamondbacks 0

In New York, Todd Frazier and Jeff McNeil each homered twice and the surging Mets beat Arizona ace Robbie Ray.

The Mets (75-70) have won the first three games of the pivotal four-game series to move past the Diamondbacks (75-71) in the race for the second NL wild card. New York is tied

with Philadelphia, two games behind the Chicago Cubs and Milwaukee for that spot.

Arizona has lost four straight.

Braves 3, Phillies 1

In Philadelphia, Tyler Flowers hit a three-run homer, Dallas Keuchel struck out eight in six innings and NL East-leading Atlanta beat the Phillies.

The Braves reduced their magic number to eight. They have a 9 ½-game lead over Washington with 15 left.

The Phillies and New York Mets are tied, two games behind the Chicago Cubs and Milwaukee for the second NL wild-card spot.

Keuchel (8-5) gave up one run and three hits to win his fifth straight start. Mark Melancon finished for his 10th save in 10 tries with Atlanta.

Phillies starter Zach Eflin (8-12) allowed three unearned runs and three hits in 3 2/3 innings.

Athletics 5, Astros 3

In Houston, Sean Murphy and Marcus Semien homered, hyped pitching prospect Jesús Luzardo looked sharp in his major league debut, and Oakland beat the Astros.

Washington Nationals left fielder Juan Soto catches a ball off the bat of Minnesota Twins’ Jorge Polanco in the sixth inning of a baseball game Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2019, in Minneapolis.

heading into a three-game series at home against the Twins this weekend.

Carrasco (5-7) pitched 1 2/3 scoreless innings with two walks and two strikeouts.

Rangers 10, Rays 9

In Arlington, Rougned Odor hit a go-ahead, three-run homer and Texas beat Tampa Bay to end a six-game winning streak by the Rays, who have the AL’s top wild-card spot.

Tampa Bay (87-60) had four runners thrown out on the bases and saw its lead over Oakland for the top wild-card spot trimmed to a half-game after the A’s won at Houston.

After their first seven-run first inning at home in 13 years, the Rangers didn’t score again until Odor’s 25th homer with two outs in the seventh off Nick Anderson (3-1).

Matt Duffy’s two-out RBI single in the first gave the Rays an early lead. They tied the game at 7 on Ji-Man Choi’s three-run homer in the second, and went ahead 8-7 when Duffy hit a sacrifice fly to deep center with the bases loaded in the fourth.

Pirates 6, Giants 3

In San Francisco, Felipe Vázquez earned his 27th save two days after fighting a teammate in the clubhouse and Pittsburgh beat the Giants.

Cole Tucker hit an RBI double for a key insurance run in the sixth, and Jose Osuna added a pair of doubles.

Jaylin Davis singled home a run, Corban Joseph had an RBI groundout and Mauricio Dubon drew a bases-loaded walk as the Giants got on the board before winner Michael Feliz (3-4) took over.

Mariners 5, Reds 3

In Seattle, rookie Kyle Lewis broke up a no-hitter bid with a home run for the second consecutive game, and the Mariners beat Sonny Gray and Cincinnati.

Just as he did on Tuesday night against the Reds’ Trevor Bauer, Lewis delivered Seattle’s first hit of the game with a towering homer. In Tuesday’s 4-3 win, Lewis hit a solo home run to left field in the fifth inning for his first career hit. On Wednesday, he sent Gray’s 105th pitch of the game into right field for a three-run homer in the seventh, his second major league hit.

Gray was pulled after allowing a single to Daniel Vogelbach, one batter after Lewis. He matched his season high with 111 pitches in 6 1/3 innings. It was his third career two-hit performance.

Nola and Seager added RBI hits in the eighth inning against reliever Kevin Gausman.

Cross Country season to kick off, rain or shine

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rain or shine, the 2019 All Schools Cross Country Championships Series 1 will be held this Saturday at the Saipan Country Club.

According to Nick Gross, Public School System's Student Support Services Ath-

letic Program director, the rain will not cause delay to the start of the cross country season.

"This year's All Schools cross country season will kick off Saturday, Sept. 14, at 6:30am, Rain or shine," he said.

Gross said registration will begin at 6am at the Saipan Country Club, located be-

hind Saipan Vegas Resort next to McDonald's

Middle Road. Students must submit a filled out parental waiver form prior to the event and for students interested in participating in the finals, they will need to compete in a minimum of

three qualifying events.

Four qualifiers are scheduled before the finale. The second leg is set for Sept. 21 also at the Saipan Country Club. The third leg will move to Banzai Cliff Lookout, as requested by Saipan International School and it will



be held on Sept. 28. For the fourth qualifier on Oct. 5, runners will return to the Saipan Country Club. The championship will also take place at the Saipan Country Club on Oct. 18 at 4pm, while all qualifiers will begin at 6:30am.

Individual and team winners will be recognized in the finale of the series, which

PSS is coordinating with the Northern Mariana Athletics.

"Special thanks to NMA for their unwavering support of Athletics opportunities for our community and to Saipan Country Club for the generosity of allowing us to avail of the golf course for this year's cross country series," said Gross.

26 attend NMIFA referee course



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants and facilitators of the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association Referee Course Fall 2019 pose for a photo before the start of the event at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last week.

A young group of individuals attended the three-day Northern Mariana Islands Football Association Referee Course Fall 2019 at the NMI Soccer Training Cen-

ter in Koblerville.

The course ran from Sept. 7 to 9 with NMIFA Referee Committee deputy chair Ruselle Zapanta and member An-

gie Ito facilitating the seminar that drew 26 individuals. The two facilitators discussed introduction to basic refereeing, rules changes, and the respon-

sibilities and duties of the officials, and conducted drills (signals and officiating games) in the first two days of the course, while the last day was spent for

review and written test.

"It was a young group of participants, but it was great to see their excitement and eagerness to referee a match and learn the rules or laws of the game they much enjoy playing," Zapanta said.

"They were only given a small sample and introduction on the demands and experiences of a soccer referee or assistant referee.

Something as simple as blowing a whistle proved to be a challenge for some, but was fun. I hope they all recognize the vital role they play in our programs. The quality of soccer in the NMI is steadily on the rise, the game is evolving and our match officials must stay up-to-date and keep up for everyone's enjoyment and success," he added.

Sebastien Manabat, one of the course participants, said he liked the many discussions involved in the course.

"We talked about decision

making and the different options on how to manage a game," Manabat said.

Ito said Manabat and majority of the participants were very proactive during their discussion.

"They have a lot of questions and during our practical sessions, they showed enjoyment and earnest understanding of how the referees and assistant referees work," she said.

Joining Manabat on the participant list were Lilian Podziewski, Marinel Falalimpa, Irish Pagarao, Davy Laxa, Mia Carreon, Rinto Takahashi, Katherine Magat, Sharmaine Francisco, Stephanie Flores, Miles Timmons, Nicole Lumbad, Ezekiel and John Canape, Jeremiah Diaz, Mary Kay Alferos, Merrick and Marcus Toves, Gabriel Arkoh Jr., Miles Borja, Kirt Andon, Jim Maniago, Chad Escaner, Jerald Aquino, Bryant Dy, and R.J. Narvaez. **(Roselyn B. Monroyo)**

TSUNAMI

From Page 32

ished the swim with support.

"Arielle (Matutino) beat many higher class swimmers. Sari (Barman) and Kaito (Rechucher) also swam well. Shana (Barman) is still 6

years old, but she beat higher class and older swimmers," Kimura said.

Tsunami Saipan members will continue to train at the PIC Saipan pool in preparation for tournaments in Guam and Japan, and possibly, South Korea.

TRIATHLON

From Page 32

"During the 2018 ITU Congress in Gold Coast, Australia, they amended the constitution by allowing territories to be an associate member of ITU and World Triathlon Corporation.

Then, last month, Mr. Barry Siff (former president of USA Triathlon and ITU Board member) sent an email that we were approved to join as an associate member of ITU under Oceania Triathlon Confederation," he said.

Castro said the acceptance of TRAC into the union was

made possible by a number of people who advocated for them.

"On behalf of TRAC, our utmost appreciation goes to Mike White of NMASA for the advice, the support of ITU executive board member Barry Shift, Peter Hedge of

Triathlon Australia and ITU Oceania Regional Representative, ITU vice president and Japan Triathlon Union official Shin Otsuka, Tomas Carrasco Jr., president of Triathlon Association of the Philippines, and Noriko Yamakura of Japan Triathlon Union," Castro said.

NMIFA

From Page 32

Zapanta and company also visited a soccer stadium to conduct their practical exercise and discuss case studies.

"This was the first time I've attended the seminar. It was nice that this did not involve intense physical activity or demand top fitness levels, such as in referee and coaching courses I've done in the past; but we did have to work late nights," Zapanta said.

The seminar, according to the NMIFA official, had both newcomers and experienced match commissioners, who needed to undergo reevaluation. Zapanta is the first official from the CNMI to be named AFC match commissioner and has been included in the AFC Match Commissioners 2020/2021 panel.

"Being appointed by AFC to be an AFC match commissioner is an honor. I will have the opportunity to work with



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants in the AFC Match Commissioner Seminar pose for a group photo after completing a practical exercise in one of the soccer stadiums in Cambodia last month.

other professionals to oversee the operation of soccer matches around Asia. It may open the doors for other opportunities and experiences I otherwise wouldn't have. And I get to do it through soccer," he said.

With his recent appointment, Zapanta may be tapped for international games sanctioned by AFC and he is look-

ing forward to the experience, which he believes will also benefit local competitions.

"I likely will have to wait until next year for my first appointment but when that time comes, and I complete that duty, surely I would come back with lessons and practices NMIFA can implement locally for our events. As an organization, this

shows our growth and commitment to developing soccer in the NMI. We can be proud of this achievement knowing that there are other member associations who have yet to have appointed AFC match commissioners," the former CNMI Men's National Team member said.

Zapanta said being an AFC match commissioner would re-

quire a continued learning process so he hopes to join more seminars, and have another one or more from the Commonwealth attending them, too.

"At the moment, I'm just waiting for my next steps with AFC and being appointed for my first assignment. Soon I'll be getting my feet wet and hope to see more of the world and ex-

perience big competitions like the Olympic Games, the AFC Asian Cup or even FIFA World Cup. I hope to have a successful stint and possibly, next year the NMIFA can add another match commissioner and I'll be around to support," he said.

Zapanta's appointment was announced through a letter AFC general secretary Dato Windsor John sent to NMIFA.

"We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate those in the new panel of the AFC Match Commissioners and look forward to working with them very closely towards the successful organization of AFC competitions," John said.

NMIFA president Jerry Tan thanked AFC for providing opportunities not only to players, but also to officials.

"We are pleased and honored to have our first AFC match commissioner and we are confident that Ruselle Zapanta will be able to fulfill his duties when he gets the call to work in an AFC competition," Tan said.



France
eliminates
US in
World Cup

PAGE 28

Saipan Tribune Sports

Nationals
beat Twins,
boost wild
card bid

PAGE 30



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

32 FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2019

Triathlon group gets boost



SAIPAN TRIBUNE
The CNMI's Tyce Mister does the bike leg of a triathlon event held early this year.

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

After years of waiting, the Triathlon Association of the CNMI was finally granted associate membership to the Oceania Triathlon Union during the 2019 International Triathlon Union Congress in Switzerland last month.

The membership is a big boost to the triathlon group, especially now that it will be preparing for the CNMI's hosting of the 2021 Pacific Mini Games. TRAC president Ricky Castro said the affiliation will give the CNMI access to the vast resources of the international federation, which is useful when developing a local federation, like TRAC, from scratch.

"As we prepare to host triathlon in the 2021 Pacific Mini Games, this will open the gates for developing the sport in the CNMI by having access to coach development, event management, training opportunities for our triathletes here and abroad, and competitions off-island," said Castro.

TRAC was granted membership after waiting for nearly three years. When asked why it took so long, Castro explained that the first time TRAC applied to become part of the union, they were denied because a provision in the ITU constitution



that was added back in 1995 established that only member countries recognized by the International Olympic Committee or United Nations could become a full member.

"The Northern Mariana Islands is not recognized as a country by the IOC, nor by the

UN, therefore, our application did not fulfill the requirements of the ITU constitution and we were denied at first," he said.

Fortunately, back in 2018, the ITU Congress amended the constitution to allow territories to become members, too.

See TRIATHLON on Page 31

Tsunami Saipan holds time trial



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan members gather for a group photo after competing in the time trial at the Pacific Islands Club late last month.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan kicked off the 2019-2020 season with a time trial at the Pacific Islands Club late last month.

The group held 50-yard freestyle races for team rankings and 25y kick and 25y freestyle events for swimmers in the beginner and fitness classes. Nearly 60 Tsunami Saipan members joined the club's first official time trial and several of them stood out in the season-opening event.

Kevin Guerrero, Aoi Braxton, and Sari Barman earned A times (standard time progression) in the 50y freestyle after clocking in at 25.9 seconds, 29.8 seconds, and 37.7 seconds, respectively.

"They got better A times. In the team rules, if a swimmer marks AA time, he/she gets the rights to go to

off-island meets," Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura.

The head coach also took note of the performances of Xans Xu and the new members of the club—Jinnosuke Suzuki and David Boyer. Xu tallied 25.6 seconds in the 50y freestyle, Suzuki submitted 25.4 seconds, and Boyer checked in at 26.3 seconds.

"Our Top 4 until this meet was Juhn (Tenorio), Jinnosuke, David, and Kevin. After this meet, it changed to Juhn, Jinnosuke, Hans, and David. It will be very exciting to see them in the relay race," Kimura.

The Tsunami Saipan official also acknowledged their members who performed well in the 25y freestyle swim. Eighteen swimmers completed the event without assistance, while eight fin-

See TSUNAMI on Page 31

NMIFA has AFC match commissioner



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's Ruselle Zapanta, top, checks the presentation on the screen during the AFC Match Commissioner Seminar in Cambodia last month.



Northern Mariana Islands Football Association executive director Ruselle Zapanta has been named one of Asian Football Confederation's match commissioners after completing and passing tests at the AFC Match Commissioner Seminar.

Zapanta was one of the nearly 100 individuals from 47-member countries of the AFC who attended the seminar held in Cambodia from July 30 to Aug. 1. Participants were divided into two regions—east and west—and went through AFC Administration System proficiency and English (written and oral) communication evaluations and regulation tests.

See NMIFA on Page 31